THE MYTHICAL DETECTIVE LOKI

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THE MYTHICAL DETECTIVE LOKI

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KINOSHITA SAKURA

THE MYTHICAL DETECTIVE LOKI MAIN CHARACTERS

LOKI ▶

THE BOY DETECTIVE PROPRIETOR OF THE LITTLE BIRD DETECTIVE AGENCY. HIS TRUE FORM IS THE NORSE GOD OF TRICKERY AND LIES.

◀MAYURA DAIDOUJI

A MYSTERY FAN AND SELF-STYLED ASSISTANT TO LOKI. HER TRUE FORM IS THAT OF A NORMAL, NAIVE HIGH SCHOOL GIRL.

RYUUSUKE YAMINO ▶

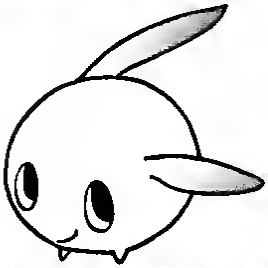
A YOUNG MAN EMPLOYED BY THE LITTLE BIRD DETECTIVE AGENCY TO CARE FOR AND ATTEND TO LOKI'S NEEDS. HIS TRUE FORM IS LOKI'S SON, THE GREAT SERPENT THAT ENCIRCLES THE WORLD, JORMUNGAND.

◀NARUGAMI

MAYURA'S CLASSMATE, WHO CALLS HIMSELF AN ALLY OF JUSTICE WHILE WIELDING A WOODEN SWORD. HE REALLY SPENDS MOST OF HIS TIME WORKING PART-TIME JOBS. HIS TRUE FORM IS THOR, GOD OF THUNDER.

MASAO DAIDOUJI ▶

MAYURA'S FATHER, A SHINTO PRIEST. HE'S ALWAYS WORRYING ABOUT MAYURA WHEN SHE PLAYS AT BEING A DETECTIVE, BUT THERE'S NOTHING HE CAN DO. AKA MAYURA-PAPA.

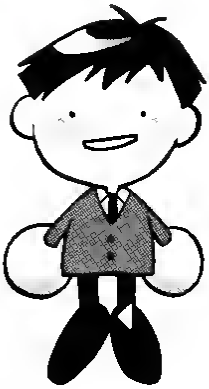


◀ETCHAN

A SHIKIGAMI SUMMONED WHEN LOKI FAILED AT NECROMANCY.

◀MASUMI NIIYAMA

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR AND FRIEND OF MAYURA'S FATHER. A MIDDLE-AGED MAN WHO LIVES A VERY HARD-BOILED LIFE.



YASU▶

THE ROOKIE DETECTIVE WHO ACTS WITH INSPECTOR NIIYAMA IN INVESTIGATIONS. HIS FULL NAME IS YASUYUKI YAMADA.

◀KOUTAROU KAKINOUCHI

A HIGH SCHOOLER WITH A BAD REPUTATION, HE CALLS HIMSELF A "WELL-INFORMED INDIVIDUAL." HE COMES FROM A WELL-KNOWN FAMILY AND SPENDS MOST OF HIS TIME RUNNING AROUND TOWN. HE AND LOKI SEEM TO GET ALONG VERY WELL.

PLOT SUMMARY

HEY, IT'S ME, THE HEAD OF THE LITTLE BIRD DETECTIVE AGENCY, LOKI! HOW'S EVERYONE DOING OUT THERE? OH, A PLOT SUMMARY? YOU'VE NEVER MET ME BEFORE? HMMM... WELLLLLLL.... I GUESS I'VE GOTTA THEN, TEE HEE HEE~

WELL, THE TRUTH IS... (JUST BETWEEN US, THOUGH!) I'M ACTUALLY ***THAT*** LOKI, THE NORSE GOD! A LOT OF STUFF WENT DOWN IN THE OTHER REALM AND THE HIGH LORD OF THE NORSE PANTHEON TOLD ME TO "DIVEST THE HUMANS OF THE EVIL THAT INFESTS THEIR HEARTS." SO NOW I'M HERE IN THE HUMAN REALM, AND I'M A MYSTICAL DETECTIVE! YAMINO-KUN AND THE HIGH SCHOOL GIRL WE MET HERE, MAYURA, HELP ME OUT TOO. THAT REMINDS ME, JUST RECENTLY WE MET THOR, WHO'S A NORSE GOD THE SAME AS I AM. HE GOES BY NARUKAMI-KUN OR SOMETHING NOWADAYS, AND IT LOOKS LIKE HE GOT SENT HERE TO THE HUMAN WORLD, TOO. I WONDER WHAT IN THE HECK HE'S HERE FOR...

OH WELL, I THINK THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH. LET'S GO!

THE MYTHICAL DETECTIVE LOKI 3RD

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NIGHT 10
THE ALCHEMIST OF OBLIVION (PART 1)

KILL HIM...

THE ONE WHO WILL BRING ABOUT THE WORLD'S END...

KILL HIM...

!
LOKI-KUN!
LOOK OUT!
!
AAAAA!!! THAT GIRL OVER THERE, SHE'S IN TROUBLE!!
WE SHOULD HAVE PUT THAT ONE ON THE TOP...
THE ONE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE...
LOKI-SAMA REALLY LOVES COFFEE CREAM..
YOU'RE TOTALLY GONNA DROP IT...

VRROOOOOOMMMM
ROOOOOM
VROOOOOOOOO
!?
SKREEE
SPLATTER
LOKI-SAMA, HAVE YOU BEEN HURT!?
A-ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
DON
HM?
....BUHH, MY ICE CREA--!!!

OH....
OH MY...
THANK YOU
SO VERY
MUCH...
RRRRT
OH,
YOU ARE A
DETECTIVE,
SIR...?
AND WE
ADDED A MAP
TO THE FLYER,
SO IT'S THE
FINAL
VERSION!
LOKI
HERE IS A
DETECTIVE,
YOU KNOW!
IF YOU LIKE,
YOU CAN
CONSULT
HIM.
FWSH!
COURTESY OF
LEAVE IT TO
LITTLE BIRD
DETECTIVE
AGENCY
HERE!
FLYER!
MAN, LOKI,
DIDN'T IT LOOK
LIKE THAT CAR
WAS AIMING FOR
THAT GIRL!?
.....

MISS REIYA, I FINALLY FOUND YOU.
KA CHK
MINO! WHATEVER IS THE MATTER?
YOUR ESTEEMED FATHER... HAS PASSED AWAY, UNFORTUNATELY.
WE MUST RETURN HOME. I HAVE COME TO RECOVER YOU.
...MY DREAM HAS PROVED TO BE PROPHETIC ONCE MORE, THEN...
MY NAME IS REIYA OOSHIMA!
I WILL RETURN YOUR FAVOR ONE DAY, THIS I SWEAR!
WH....
HOW IN THE WORLD COULD THIS...

AHEM
IT'S LEFTOVERS FROM MY JOB...
DON'T BE SHY OR NOTHIN', DIG IN!
YOU'RE WORKING PART-TIME AT A CAKE SHOP NOW, NARUGAMI-KUN?
OOH♥
IRON PART-TIMER RULE FIVE: THE CUSTOMER IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN A GOD!!
IT TASTES LIKE TOIL, NARUKAMI-KUN....
WHAT'RE YOU TRYIN' TO SAY, LOKI....?
OF COURSE I AM!!
WELCOME, COME ON IN~!
YOU'RE DOING CUSTOMER SERVICE? HOW'S THAT GOING?
YYIIIII!!
LIKE RAW MEAT!?
SMIRKING FOR NO REASON
I'LL HAVE SOME TOO.
DIN-NER
HEY, FOUR-EYES!!
SURE!
MAYURA-SAN~ CAN I ASK IF YOU'RE WILL-ING TO GIVE ME A HAND WITH DINNER?

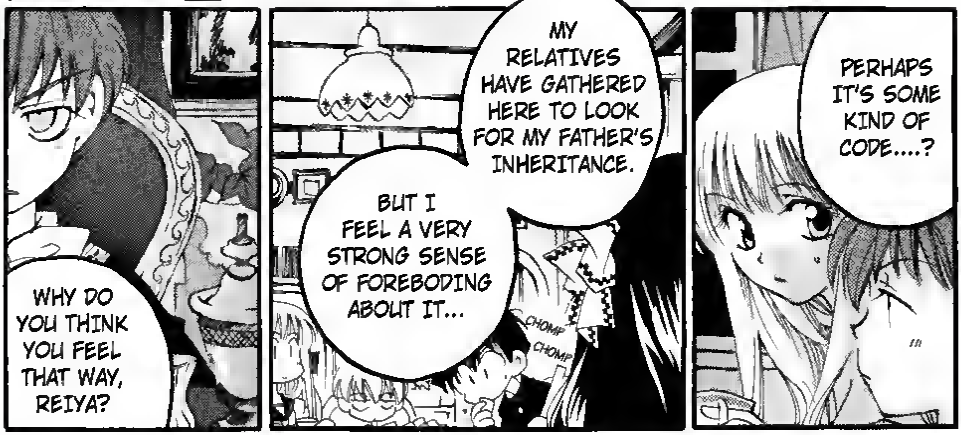
WHAT!? THE GODDESS FREYA IS HERE TOO!?
THE NORSE GODDESS FREYA... SHE MAY KNOW HOW I CAN GET BACK TO THE GOD'S REALM!
.....
SO
WHERE IS FREYA NOW...?
DUNNO. I DIDN'T ASK HER.
I'M SO TIRED OF YOU!
THUD

.....
I DO BEG YOUR PARDON, SIR.
IF IT'S REALLY OUR DESTINY TO MEET, SHE'LL TURN UP AROUND HERE AGAIN SOMETIME, I'M SURE...
I'M THE BUTLER OF THE OOSHIMA FAMILY. MY NAME IS MINO. YOU GRANTED OUR REIYA-SAMA A GREAT BOON THE OTHER DAY.
I'VE COME TO INVITE YOU TO SUPPER.

OHHOHHHH NOOO! I'M STAYING HOME TOO!! I HATE CARS!!
HERE WE ARE, COME ALONG.
WHIRL
SOB
SOB
WOKI-SHIMA...
PLEASE COME HOME SOON...
WAIT? YAMINO-SAN'S NOT COMING ALONG?
YEAH, NARUKAMI REALLY WANTED TO COME.
KAY, LET'S GO.
.....
DONK
THE RISK IS TOO GREAT!! I REFUSE!!
LOKI-KUN, YOU HAVE TO COME ALONG! DON'T THROW A TANTRUM OVER IT!
FSHHHHHH....

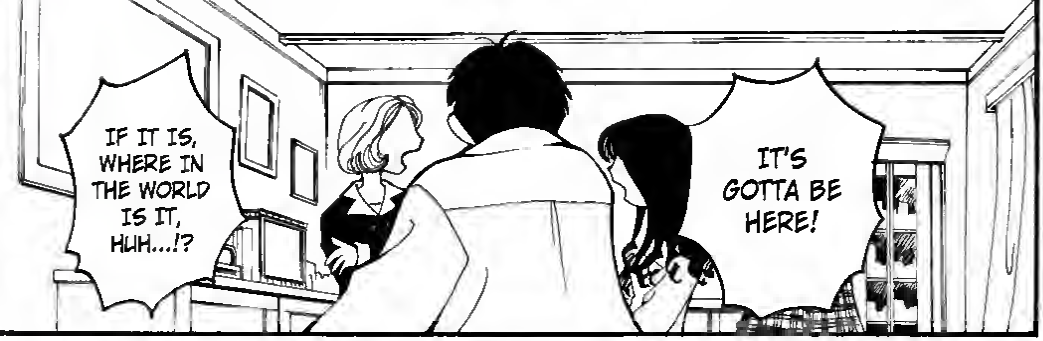
FSHHHHHH...
WELCOME TO MY HOME. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING!
IT'S PRETTY FAR AWAY, ISN'T IT!
I KNOW WHAT YOU DID, NARUKAMI-KUN...
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
THAT'S FREYA...?
DO YOU COMMUTE ALL THE WAY FROM THE MIDDLE OF THE MOUNTAINS TO SCHOOL?

YEAH! IT LOOKED LIKE SOMEONE WAS AFTER YOU, THEN. HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED?
YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO CONSULT ME ON, DO YOU NOT? YOU CALLED ME HERE AT A TIME LIKE THIS.
IT WAS TOO SAD TO STAY HERE, SO I AM CURRENTLY LIVING IN THE DORM.
.....
....THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THAT MY FATHER RECENTLY DIED OF AN ILLNESS AND LEFT A WILL STATING...
"I LEAVE MY ENTIRE FORTUNE TO WHOEVER IS THERE TO TAKE CARE OF RISA."
WHO'S RISA?
SHE IS MY BELOVED ELDER SISTER...
SHE DIED MANY YEARS AGO IN AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING MY FATHER'S RESEARCH...
!?
WAIT, SOMEONE'S GOTTA TAKE CARE OF A DEAD PERSON!?


WHY DO YOU THINK YOU FEEL THAT WAY, REIYA?
BUT I FEEL A VERY STRONG SENSE OF FOREBODING ABOUT IT...
MY RELATIVES HAVE GATHERED HERE TO LOOK FOR MY FATHER'S INHERITANCE.
CHOMP CHOMP
PERHAPS IT'S SOME KIND OF CODE....?

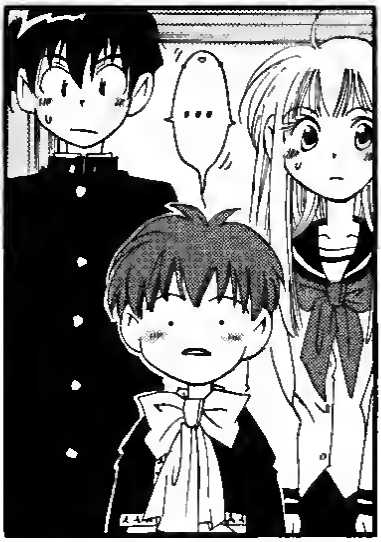
I'VE DREAMED THAT THEY ARE ALL GOING TO DIE.
AND MY DREAMS QUITE OFTEN COME TRUE.
DREAMS?

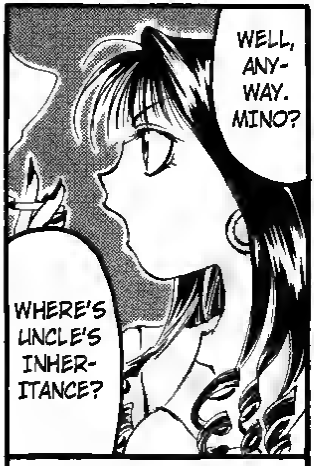
.....
YES..... SHE APPEARS TO BE SLEEPING PEACEFULLY.....
YOU HAD A DREAM ABOUT YOUR SISTER?
AND ALSO... I FEEL THAT MY BELOVED ELDER SISTER DOES NOT WANT TO BE AWAKENED.
FOOD!
HEY, LOKI!
REIYA-SAMA, DINNER HAS BEEN PREPARED.
NOK NOK
THANK YOU! WE'RE ON OUR WAY NOW.
IF IT'S LIKE THAT, THEN THERE'S NO WAY I CAN ASK HER HOW TO GET HOME...
WHAT IN THE HECK....!?
....SOMEHOW IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S FORGOTTEN SHE EVER WAS THE GODDESS FREYA AT ALL. JUST TREAT HER LIKE A NORMAL GIRL.
WAS FREYA ALWAYS LIKE THAT?
I FEEL LIKE SHE USED TO BE WAYYY STRONGER...



SUGIZOU OOSHIMA

REIYA'S UNCLE



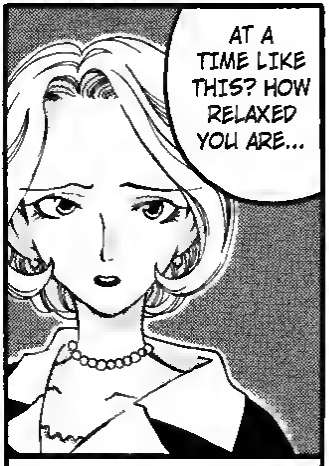


SATOMI HAKAMADA

REIYA'S COUSIN

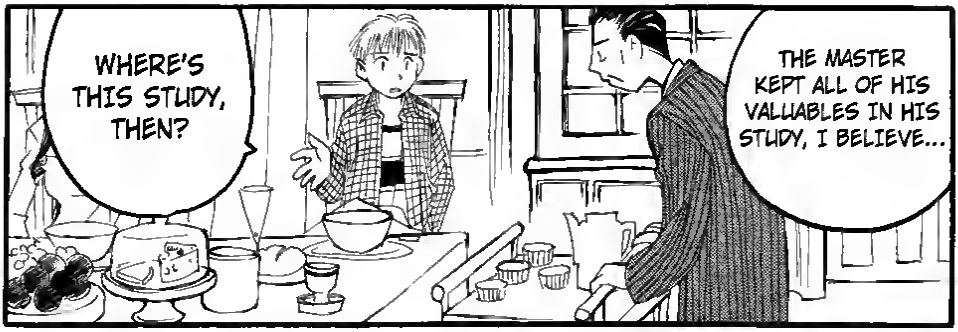
ETSUSHI MURAKAMI

REIYA'S COUSIN



YUKARI KUSAKA

REIYA'S AUNT


WHERE'S THIS STUDY, THEN?
THE MASTER KEPT ALL OF HIS VALUABLES IN HIS STUDY, I BELIEVE...

MY DEAR SISTER WANTS TO BE LEFT ALONE... I'M VERY SAD FOR HER...

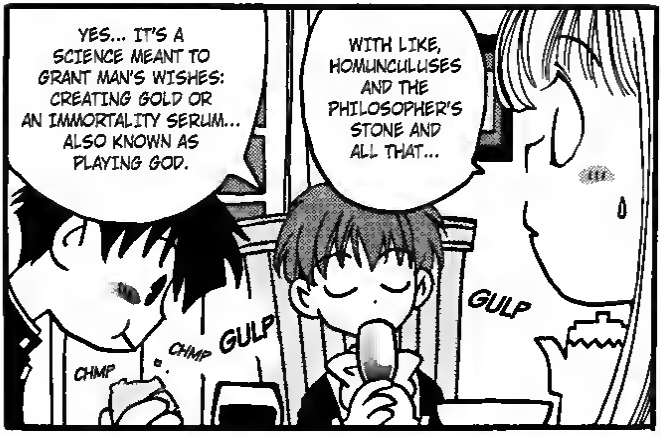
HEH HEH
MAN, WHAT WAS UP WITH MY BROTHER... HE JUST WENT NUTS OR SOMETHING...

WELL, THAT I JUST DON'T KNOW...
JUST THAT WHENEVER HE WENT OFF TO HIS STUDY, HE'D SAY THE SAME THING... "I'M GOING TO SEE RISA..."

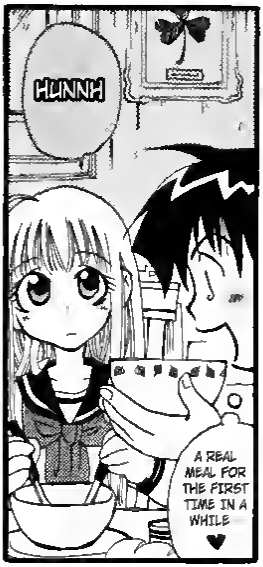
WELL, THEN, UNCLE PROBABLY HAD AN ASSISTANT ON HIS PAYROLL AT SOME POINT, RIGHT?
LET'S GO FIND THEM AND ASK THEM.

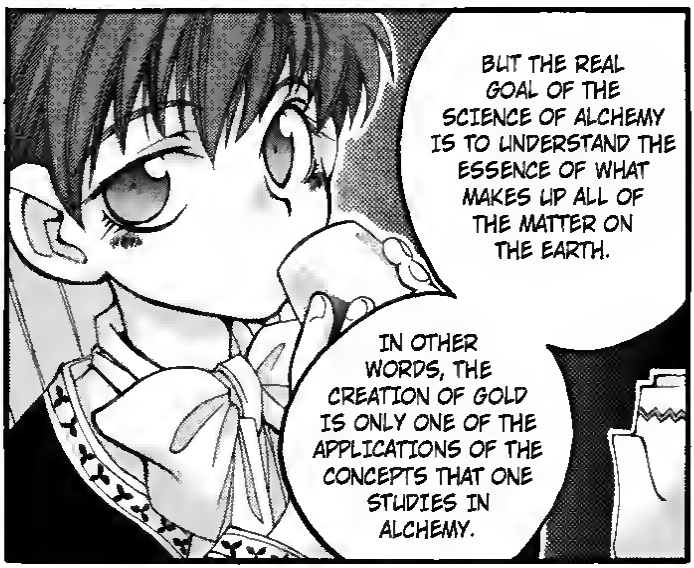
HMPH. WELL, FINE THEN.
THE FIRST PERSON WHO FINDS THE STUDY IS THE WINNER, THEN!
FIVE YEARS AGO, WHEN RISA HAD HER ACCIDENT, HIS ASSISTANT'S HAND WAS BADLY INJURED AND HE LEFT.
FURTHER-MORE, THAT PERSON ALSO LIKELY DOES NOT KNOW. ULTIMATELY, THE STUDY WAS A PLACE USED ONLY BY THE MASTER.
I TOO AM A SCHOLAR, THOUGH NOT A GREAT ONE... MY BROTHER WAS ONCE CONSIDERED TO BE VERY PROMISING IN THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY.
BUT AFTER RISA'S DEATH, HE WENT A LITTLE OFF HIS ROCKER AND LOCKED HIMSELF UP IN HIS HOUSE LIKE A CRAZY PERSON.
SO WHAT IN THE HECK WAS UNCLE EVEN STUDYING?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT....

AND THEN SOMEHOW PEOPLE AROUND TOWN STARTED TO CALL HIM "THE ALCHEMIST OF OBLIVION."
MAYBE HE WAS TRYING TO FORGET ABOUT RISA'S DEATH BY LOSING HIMSELF IN HIS STUDIES...

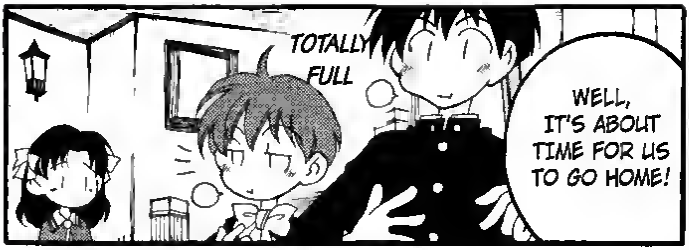

YES... IT'S A SCIENCE MEANT TO GRANT MAN'S WISHES: CREATING GOLD OR AN IMMORTALITY SERUM... ALSO KNOWN AS PLAYING GOD.
WITH LIKE, HOMUNCULUSES AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE AND ALL THAT...
CHMP
CHMP
GULP
GULP

ROCK
SHIIING
ALCHEMY...
...THAT THING WHERE YOU MAKE STUFF INTO GOLD?


HUNNH
A REAL MEAL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE ♥


BUT THE REAL GOAL OF THE SCIENCE OF ALCHEMY IS TO UNDERSTAND THE ESSENCE OF WHAT MAKES UP ALL OF THE MATTER ON THE EARTH.
IN OTHER WORDS, THE CREATION OF GOLD IS ONLY ONE OF THE APPLICATIONS OF THE CONCEPTS THAT ONE STUDIES IN ALCHEMY.

ナイアー
FWSHHHHH


TOTALLY FULL
WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR US TO GO HOME!

WOW! THE RAIN'S GETTING REALLY BAD OUT THERE...

LOKI-SAMA...
WILL YOU PLEASE HELP ME...?

YES, OF COURSE!
POP
HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT, BUT HE'S NOT BAD AT THIS DETECTIVE STUFF
REIYA-CHAN! IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT!!
WAHAHA IT'S A MYSTERY
PLUS HE'S GOT A GREAT ASSISTANT LIKE ME AROUND TO HELP HIM OUT!!
NAH, SHE'S ACTUALLY JUST A DORKY MYSTERY FA- BLHGH
ACTUALLY, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT... IT'S GOTTEN KIND OF DIM IN HERE... IT COULDN'T BE THAT...
AH YES... THE POWER WENT OUT AND WE'VE HAD TO LIGHT CANDLES YOU SEE
...I'M TERRIBLY SORRY
IT'S FAR TOO DANGEROUS TO TAKE THE CAR INTO THE MOUNTAINS IN THIS STORM... PLEASE STAY HERE FOR THE NIGHT
WHUH !?
.....
'SCUSE ME GRAMPA, CAN YOU GET THE CAR FOR US?
I GOTTA WORK EARLY TO-MOR-ROW

WE HAVE NO PHONE SERVICE HERE.
BLUNTLY
THE MASTER DID NOT LIKE OTHER PEOPLE.
EXCUSE MEEE, I'D LIKE TO CALL HOME FIRST, CAN I BORROW YOUR PHONE...?
HUH, OUT OF RANGE...
WELL THEN, I SHALL PREPARE YOUR SLEEPING CHAMBER.
THEIR RESPECTIVE ANXIETIES
YOU'RE FIRED!
TOMORROW'S WORK...
DROOP
WORST DAUGHTER
PAPA'S DEMONIC RAGE...
SHIVER
KID-NAPPED!
YAMI-NO IN SHOCK
ABDUC-TED!
STOLEN BY SPIRITS!
SIGH

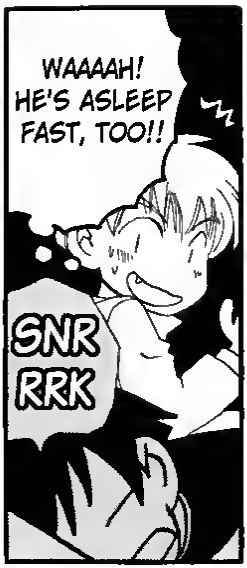
HEY, IT'S JUST LIKE A SCHOOL TRIP! LET'S HAVE A PILLOW FIGHT, YOU GUYS!!
HA HA HA!
YOU'RE WAY TOO ADAPTABLE MAYURA...
WAH-HUHHH THE THREE OF US HAVE TO SHARE A ROOM!?!?
AND EVEN A BED...!?
DUN DUN
SOB SOB SOB
SHH, IT'S OKAY
EN-RAP-TURED
WE'RE STUCK IN AN ISOLATED MANSION... A STORM RAGES OUTSIDE!! IT'S THE PERFECT ENVIRONMENT FOR MYSTERY!
YOU THINK SO?
SHOULDN'T YOU BE, IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION? THE PERFECT ENVIRONMENT FOR A MYSTERY...
MAYURA... YOU'RE NEVER ANXIOUS IN SITUATIONS LIKE THIS...

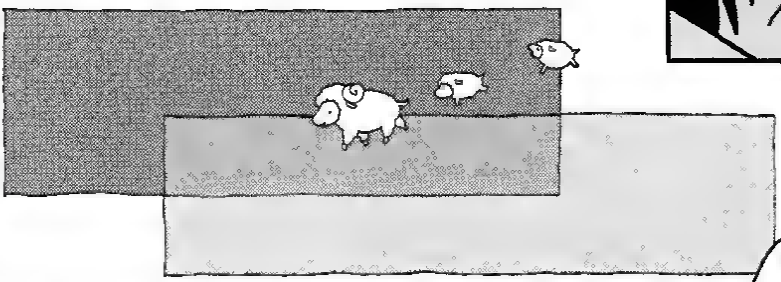
.....
HEY, LOKI-KUN? DO YOU EVER...
PAF
AWWH, NEVERMIND! GOOD NIGHT!!
BUT IN A WAY...
IT FEELS LIKE IT'S SAVING ME...

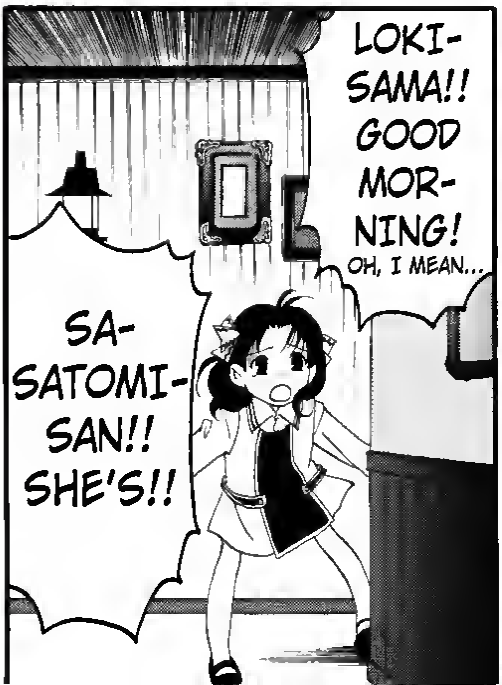
WHY IN THE WORLD ARE YOU GUYS HERE?
FIRST YOU, THEN FREYA... WHY ARE ALL THE NORSE GODS COLLECTING AROUND ME LATELY?

....HEY NARU-KAMI?
WH-WHOA THAT WAS FAST! IS IT HER SPECIAL SKILL?
LESS THAN 3 SECONDS!
ZZZ

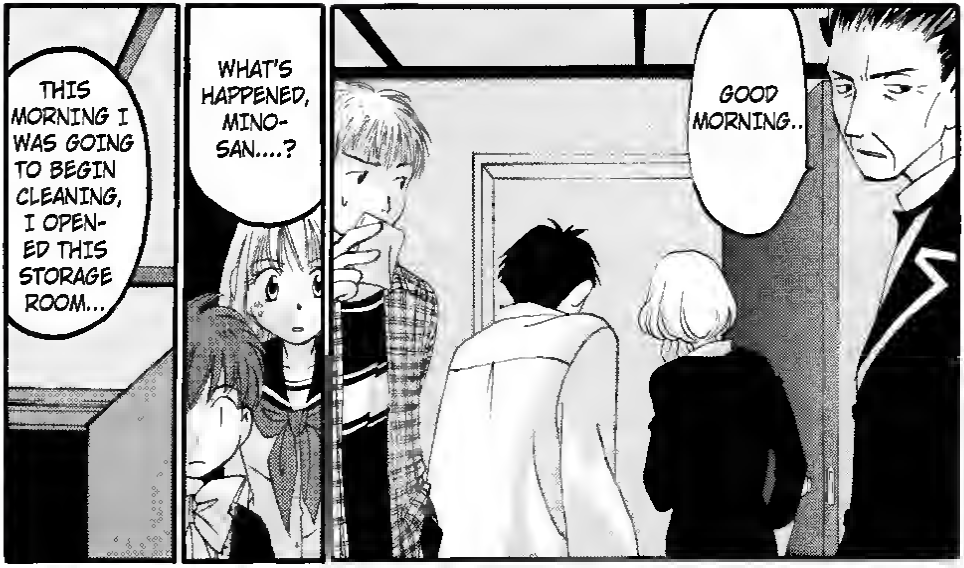
SNO
RRKZ
ZZZ
ZZZ
HOW IN THE WORLD DID I END UP HERE...

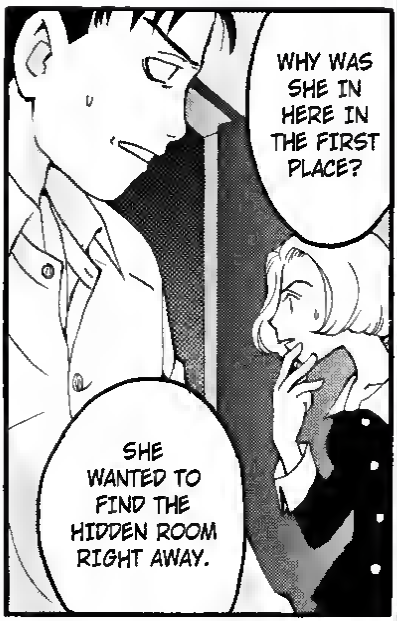

WAAAAH! HE'S ASLEEP FAST, TOO!!
SNR
RRK



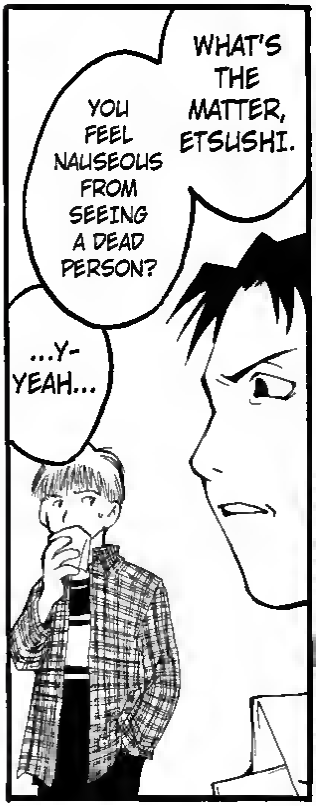

LOKI-SAMA!! GOOD MOR-NING!
OH, I MEAN...
SA-SATOMI-SAN!! SHE'S!!

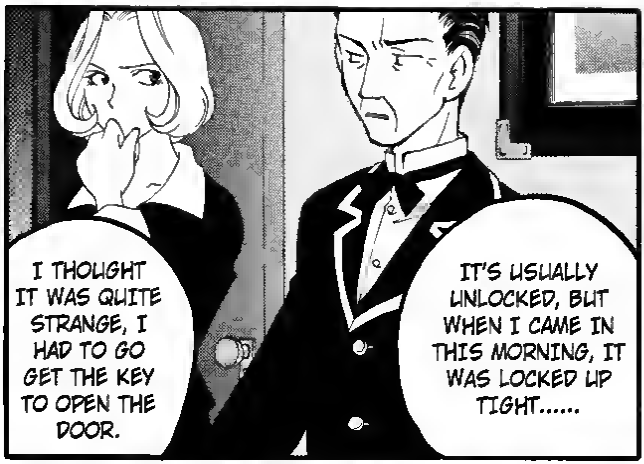
THE RAIN HASN'T LET UP AT ALL!!
AUUGH... MY JOB...!
TOK TOK TOK
MAYBE IT EVEN GOT WORSE?


THIS MORNING I WAS GOING TO BEGIN CLEANING, I OPENED THIS STORAGE ROOM...
WHAT'S HAPPENED, MINO-SAN....?
GOOD MORNING..


WHY WAS SHE IN HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE?
SHE WANTED TO FIND THE HIDDEN ROOM RIGHT AWAY.

...REIYA-CHAN'S DREAM CAME TRUE!!
....!

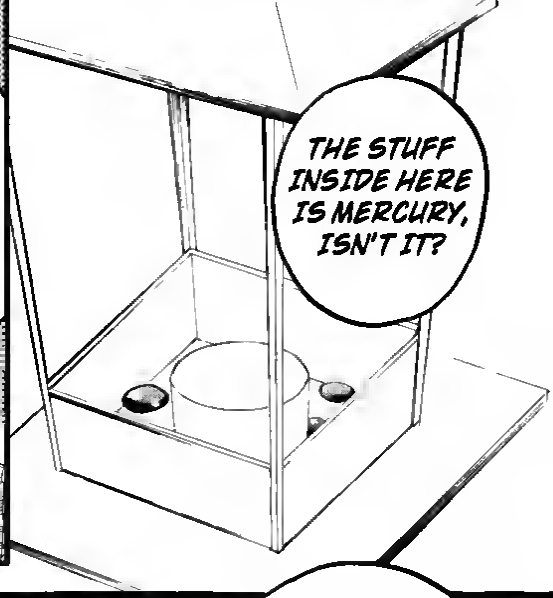

WHAT'S THE MATTER, ETSUSHI.
YOU FEEL NAUSEOUS FROM SEEING A DEAD PERSON?
...Y-YEAH...


I THOUGHT IT WAS QUITE STRANGE, I HAD TO GO GET THE KEY TO OPEN THE DOOR.
IT'S USUALLY UNLOCKED, BUT WHEN I CAME IN THIS MORNING, IT WAS LOCKED UP TIGHT.....

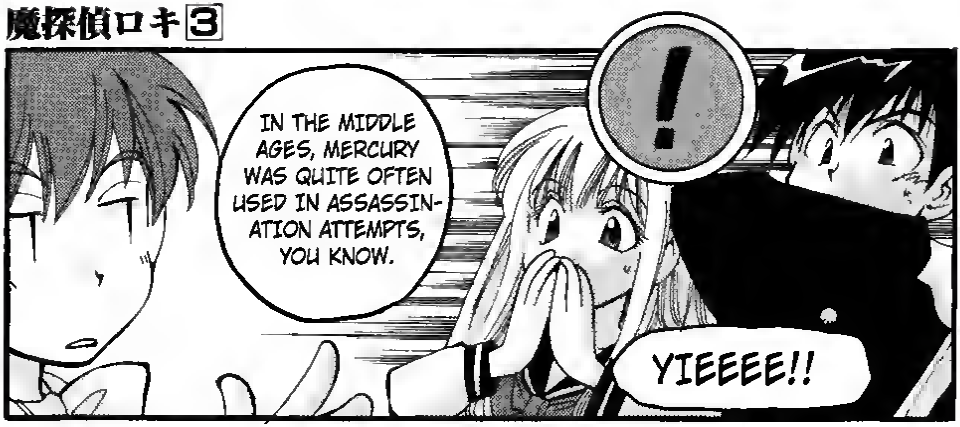
A LOCKED ROOM !?

....
COUGH
BIG SISTER RISA DOESN'T LIKE IT...
SHE DOESN'T LIKE THAT EVERY-ONE IS LOOKING FOR HER...
KAFF
KAFF
ANYWAY, THIS CLOSET SURE IS DUSTY...
DO YOU ACTUALLY CLEAN THIS PLACE?
THE LANTERN?
WHAT ABOUT THAT?
IT LOOKS LIKE THERE WAS A STRUG-GLE... BUT WHAT DID SHE DIE OF...

ARE YOU SAYING THAT SATOMI JUST WENT AND DRANK THE MERCURY IN THERE?
NO WAY !!
....AH


THE STUFF INSIDE HERE IS MERCURY, ISN'T IT?

THE HEATED UP MERCURY VAPOR FILLED UP THIS SMALL ROOM... IT'S INCREDIBLY POISONOUS.
SHE LOCKED THE DOOR AND LIT THE LAMP, THEN SPENT THE ENTIRE NIGHT SEARCHING IN THERE...
PROBABLY, SHE WAS VERY CONFIDENT THAT THE DOOR INTO THE STUDY WAS IN THIS CLOSET.

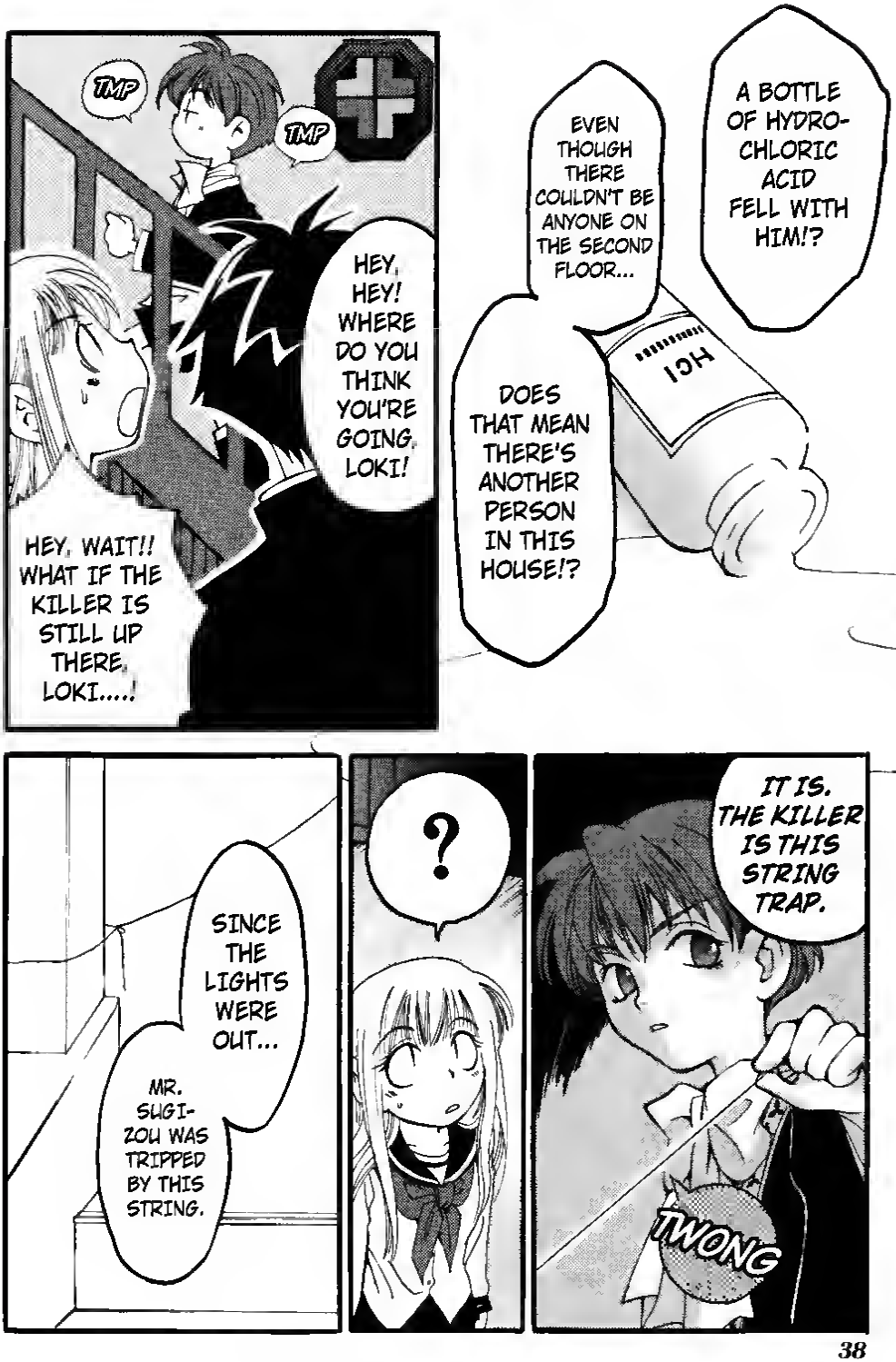

IN THE MIDDLE AGES, MERCURY WAS QUITE OFTEN USED IN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS, YOU KNOW.
!
YIEEEE!!

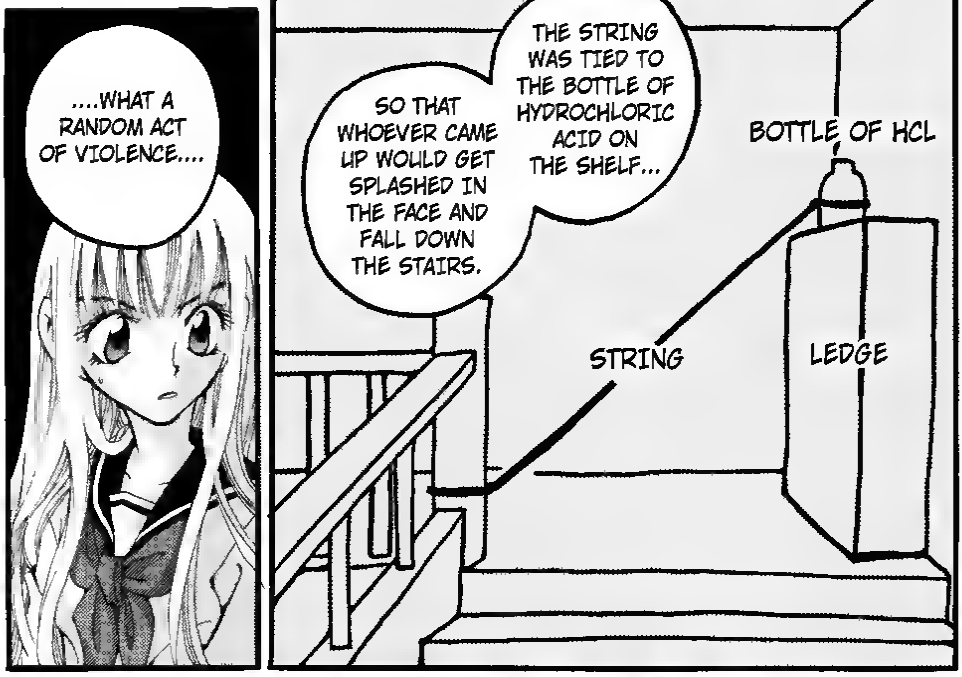
I'LL CHECK ON THE SECOND FLOOR.
IT'S DARK UP THERE, BE CAREFUL.
MAYBE SOMEONE BROKE IN! I'LL GO LOOK DOWNSTAIRS!
I DON'T WANT TO STAY HERE ANY LONGER THAN WE HAVE TO. LET'S FIND THE MONEY AND GET OUT OF HERE.
DOES THAT MEAN SOMEONE IN THE FAMILY IS A MURDERER!?

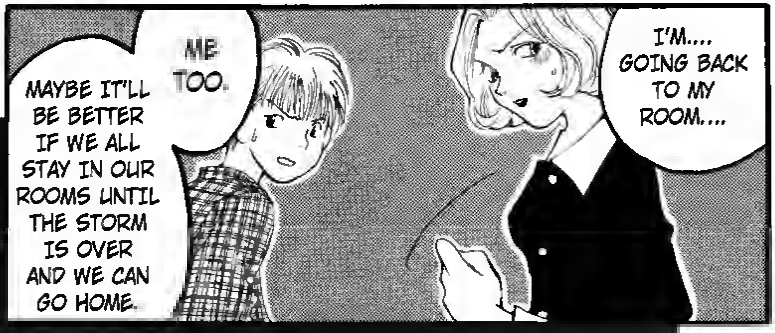
MERCURY, HUH....?
.....

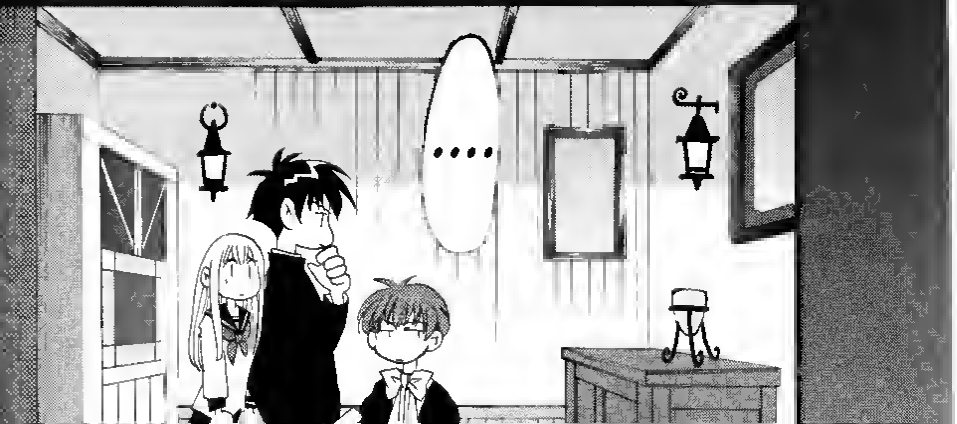
....WAH!
THMP
THMP
THMP
THMP
THMP
THMP
THMP
!!
!?

HCl
AAAAA...
....REIYA-SAMA, WHY DON'T YOU RETURN TO YOUR ROOM...
.....

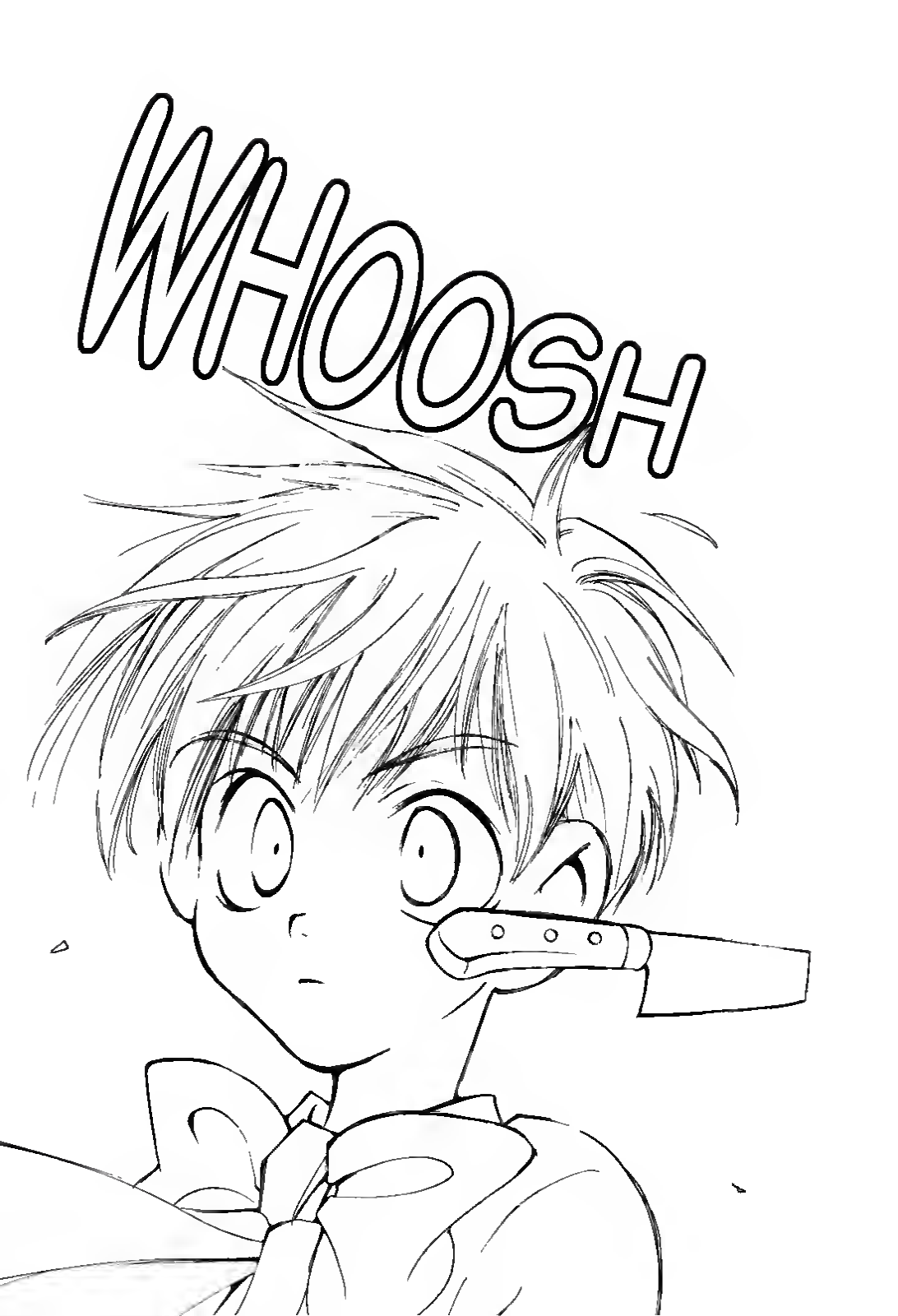

TMP
TMP
HEY, HEY! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING, LOKI!
HEY, WAIT!! WHAT IF THE KILLER IS STILL UP THERE, LOKI....!
A BOTTLE OF HYDRO-CHLORIC ACID FELL WITH HIM!?
EVEN THOUGH THERE COULDN'T BE ANYONE ON THE SECOND FLOOR...
DOES THAT MEAN THERE'S ANOTHER PERSON IN THIS HOUSE!?
HCl
SINCE THE LIGHTS WERE OUT...
MR. SUGI-ZOU WAS TRIPPED BY THIS STRING.
?
IT IS. THE KILLER IS THIS STRING TRAP.
TWONG


....WHAT A RANDOM ACT OF VIOLENCE....
SO THAT WHOEVER CAME UP WOULD GET SPLASHED IN THE FACE AND FALL DOWN THE STAIRS.
THE STRING WAS TIED TO THE BOTTLE OF HYDROCHLORIC ACID ON THE SHELF...
BOTTLE OF HCL
STRING
LEDGE


I'M.... GOING BACK TO MY ROOM....
ME TOO.
MAYBE IT'LL BE BETTER IF WE ALL STAY IN OUR ROOMS UNTIL THE STORM IS OVER AND WE CAN GO HOME.


....

UNTIL THE RAIN CLEARS UP, WE CAN'T GO HOME OR CALL THE COPS...
...MERCURY AND HYDRO-CHLORIC ACID... I THINK THERE WILL BE ONE MORE PERSON MURDERED HERE...
OH NO!
THERE DON'T SEEM TO BE ANY HINTS ABOUT THE LOCATION OF THE STUDY... WHAT DID REIYA'S FATHER STUDY...?
THIS MANSION IS MUCH MORE DANGEROUS THAN I THOUGHT...


WHOOSH

.....
AAAH! LOKI-KUN!
BLOOD! YOU'RE BLEED-ING!
FSH
NARU-KAMI-KUN... YOU KNEW THIS KNIFE WAS COMING...
WHY DIDN'T YOU DO SOME-THING ABOUT IT?

THE MYTHICAL DETECTIVE LOKI
NIGHT 11
THE ALCHEMIST OF OBLIVION (PART 2)

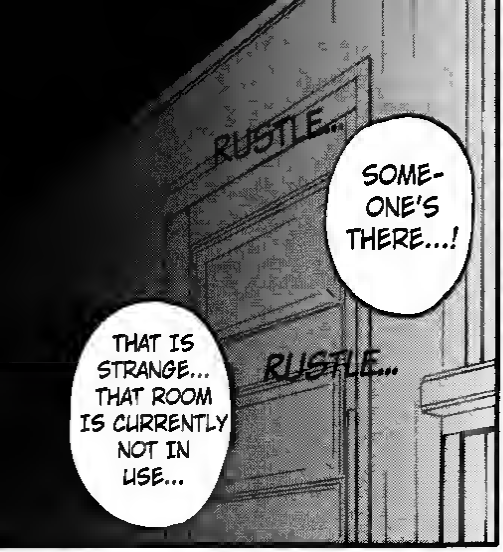
THOUGH SHE HAS LOST ALL MEMORY OF BEING A GODDESS, REIYA DOES HAVE THE POWER OF PROPHETIC DREAMS. SHE FORESAW THE DEATH OF HER OWN FATHER, WHO HAD BEEN NICKNAMED "THE ALCHEMIST OF OBLIVION."
BY SHEER COINCIDENCE, THE YOUNG GIRL REIYA, WHO LOKI SAVED FROM BEING HIT BY A CAR, TURNED OUT TO BE THE INCARNATION OF THE NORSE GODDESS FREYA.
I'VE DREAMED THAT THEY ARE ALL GOING TO DIE.
AND MY DREAMS QUITE OFTEN COME TRUE.
SHE HAD PROPHETIC DREAMS INDICATING THAT AFTER HER FATHER'S DEATH, MORE DEATHS WOULD FOLLOW. SHE CONSULTED LOKI IN ORDER TO HAVE HIM SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF HER FATHER'S WILL, WHICH STATES THAT HIS FORTUNE WOULD GO TO WHOEVER TAKES CARE OF HIS DAUGHTER RISA, WHO HAS BEEN DEAD FOR FIVE YEARS.
BUT THE FAMILY MEMBERS WHO CAME TO THE MANSION SEEKING THE INHERITANCE BEGAN TO BE KILLED ONE BY ONE, BEFORE LOKI'S VERY EYES!
AND NOW, THIS MURDEROUS INTENT HAS FOUND A NEW TARGET, IN LOKI HIMSELF!!
IS THIS, AS REIYA SAYS, A WARNING FROM HER DEAD SISTER RISA, WHO WISHES TO CONTINUE SLEEPING UNDISTURBED!?

AH...!
OW....!! THAT REALLY HURTS, MAYURA!! WHAT IS THAT STUFF!?
QUIT MOVING AROUND, LOKI-KUN. IF WE DON'T DISINFECT THIS, YOU COULD GET TETANUS OR SOMETHING!
COME ON DAIDOUJI! JUST DO IT!
GUH
KA CHK
YOU GOT IT!!
HEH HEH HEH
AUGH! YOU GOT IT IN MY EYEE!!
JUST RINSE IT OUT.
IT'S 'COS YOU MOVED, LOKI-KUN!!
I DIDN'T THINK THEY'D GO AFTER LOKI-KUN... IT WAS SO DARK THAT I COULDN'T REALLY SEE THE GUY'S FACE, EITHER....
TWINGE
AND WE COULDN'T REALLY GO AFTER HIM OR ANYTHING.
TWINGE

YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO STOP THAT KNIFE, SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE?
...OR MAYBE YOU JUST WANTED TO STAND BY AND WATCH ME DIE?
GRR
RRR
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT, NARUKAMI-KUN!
!
R A R
YOU COLD-HEARTED MONSTER!!
I'M JUST OFF 'COS I DIDN'T GET ANY BREAKFAST.
...MY BAD
OKAY, TIME TO PUT A BAND-AID ON YOUR BOO-BOO!! ♡
SO I'M TOTALLY FEELIN' WEAK
GRRROWL
.....

HEY, LOKI-KUN...
WHO DO YOU THINK THE KILLER IS?
CRUSADER FOR JUSTICE!
正義の味方!
ALL RIGHT! TIME TO REGAIN MY HONOR!
DUN
DUN
FROM HERE ON OUT, I SHALL PROTECT YOUR LIVES WITH MY OWN!!
NOOO! IT LOOKS LAME!
PWIP
HERE
HAH
HEY... ARE YOU GUYS LISTEN-ING?
ETSUSHI MURAKAMI
SUGIZOU OOSHIMA (DEAD)
SATOMI HAKAMADA (DEAD)
兄野サン
レイヤ
BUTLER MINO
REIYA OOSHIMA
YUKARI KUSAKA
HMM... RIGHT NOW OTHER THAN US, THERE ARE FOUR PEOPLE FROM THE OOSHIMA FAMILY HERE...

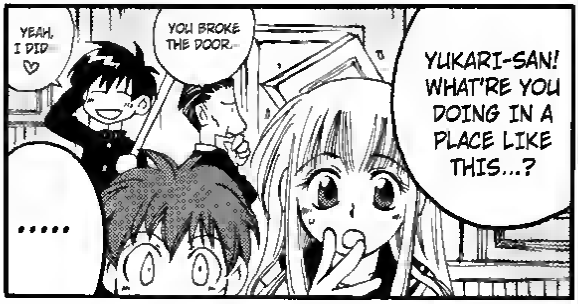
OH THAT'S RIGHT, LOKI-KUN.. DIDN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THERE BEING ONE MORE MURDER? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
THE THREE BASIC ELEMENTS OF ALCHEMY ARE MERCURY, SALT, AND SULPHUR.
SATOMI WAS KILLED BY MERCURY VAPOR, SUGIZOU WAS KILLED BY HYDROCHLORIC ACID, WHICH WAS ONCE CALLED "SPIRITS OF SALT."
HCl
THEREFORE THE MURDERER HAS ONE MORE ALCHEMICALLY THEMED MURDER LEFT... THE NEXT SHOULD INVOLVE SULPHUR IN SOME WAY, YOU SEE?
ISN'T SULPHUR THAT STUFF THAT'S IN THE WATER AT HOT SPRINGS THAT REALLY STINKS? LIKE, IT SMELLS SO BAD YOU WANNA DIE?
WHOA.... THAT'S... A PRETTY BAD WAY TO DIE...
EW
IT SMELLS LIKE STINKY EGGS
THE THREE BASIC ELEMENTS HAVE MANY DIFFERENT TRAITS, SO IT DOES NOT NECESSARILY FOLLOW THAT THE MURDER WILL USE SULPHUR ITSELF.
ONIEEE
SULPHUR IS ABLE TO COMBUST AND CORRODE AS WELL AS OTHER THINGS. IT'S IMPORTANT TO BEAR IN MIND ALL THE THINGS IT CAN DO.
KNOCK
KNOCK
FOR INSTANCE GUN-POWDER,
OR EVEN A FIRE...
BREAKFAST IS SERVED, PLEASE MAKE YOUR WAY TO THE DINING ROOM.
KACHK


RUSTLE..
SOME-ONE'S THERE...!
RUSTLE..
THAT IS STRANGE... THAT ROOM IS CURRENTLY NOT IN USE...

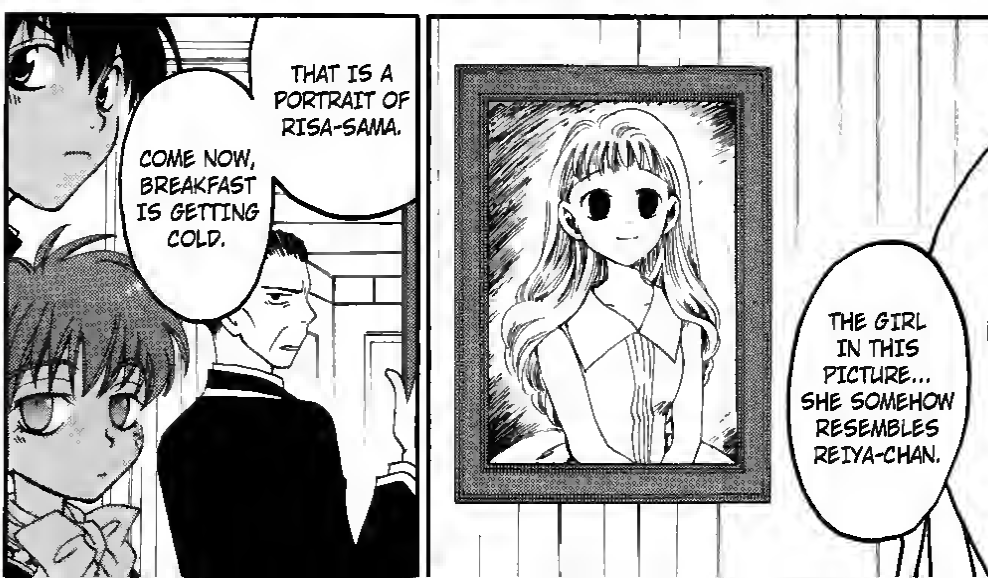
WHISPER
WAIT, YOU WANT ME TO DO IT?? I DON'T KNOW... HE'S KIND OF SCARY...
WHISPER
HEY MAYURA, AFTERWARDS WANNA ASK MINO-SAN ABOUT THE ACCIDENT FIVE YEARS AGO...
YAYYYY!! FOOD!! HAPPY!!

!

I'LL TAKE ALL THE WEIRD GUYS ON, NO PROB-LEM!
BANG!!


YEAH, I DID ♡
YOU BROKE THE DOOR.
YUKARI-SAN! WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...?
.....

WHAT DO YOU THINK I'M DOING? LOOKING FOR THE STUDY ENTRANCE OF COURSE!
THAT'S WHY I CAME HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
HM?
ANYWAY, LET'S GO EAT FOOD, QUICK!
YOU'RE A GRUB-GRUBBER!
I DON'T NEED ANY, NO.
YUKARI-SAMA, WILL YOU BE HAVING BREAKFAST?
...MAN, WHAT A MONEY-GRUBBER...

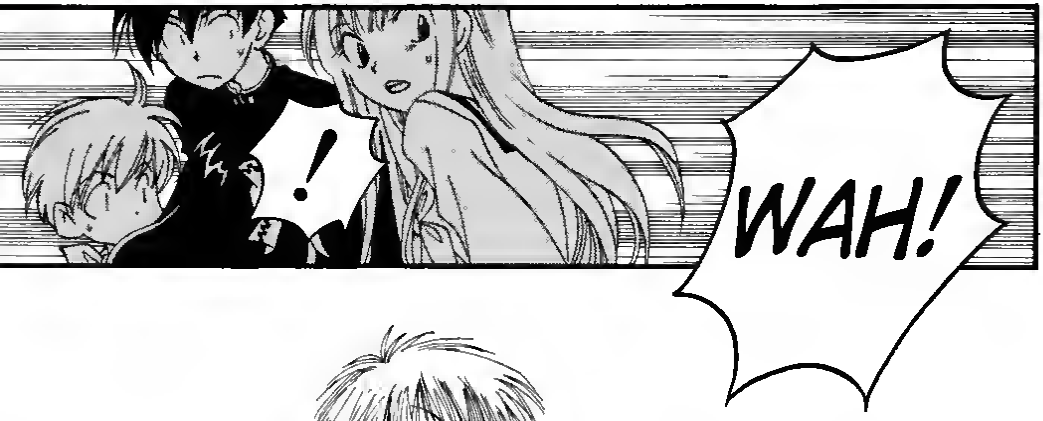

THAT IS A PORTRAIT OF RISA-SAMA.
COME NOW, BREAKFAST IS GETTING COLD.
THE GIRL IN THIS PICTURE... SHE SOMEHOW RESEMBLES REIYA-CHAN.

AND SHE WAS THE ONE WHO SAID WE SHOULD GO BACK TO OUR ROOMS... PRETTY SHREWD.
IS YUKARI-SAN STILL SEARCHING FOR THE STUDY?
YOU'RE PRETTY BLASE ABOUT ALL THIS... I MEAN, THE VICTIMS ARE YOUR FAMILY.
WE DON'T REALLY GET THE CHANCE TO SEE EACH OTHER A WHOLE LOT. THEY'RE ALL PRETTY BUSY.
KATINK
REIYA-CHAN!
I HAVE TO ASK A FAVOR OF LOKI-SAMA....

LOKI-SAMA... PLEASE SEARCH FOR MY FATHER'S STUDY FOR ME...
IF I CAN MEET WITH MY BELOVED SISTER... AND APOLOGIZE... SHE HAS TO START TO FORGIVE EVERYONE!
THANKS FOR THE BREAKFAST! IT WAS GREAT!

OKAY, WELL I'LL GO SEE WHAT MINO-SAN HAS TO SAY...
GOOD.
WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO, LOKI?
AN AFTER-BREAKFAST NAP?

I WONDER IF ETSUSHI IS GOING TO GO LOOK FOR THE STUDY NOW, TOO...?


!
WAH!

E-ETSUSHI-SAN!! IT'S EXACTLY LIKE WHAT HAPPENED TO LOKI-KUN!
WHERE'D IT COME FROM!?
I'LL GO AFTER 'EM!
I-...
IT CAME FROM OVER THERE...

WHAT IS GOING ON!?
REIYA-CHAN!
WHAT IN THE HECK IS GOING ON IN THIS PLACE!? IT'S TOTALLY CREEPY!!
STEP
IF THAT'S ALL YOU NEED, I CAN TAKE CARE OF HER IN YOUR PLACE.
Y-YOU WILL! THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
I'M QUITE TROUBLED... IT'S A STATE OF EMERGENCY, AND I WAS TO TAKE THE CAR AROUND AND GET THE POLICE... BUT WITH REIYA-CHAN LIKE THIS....
YOU KNOW, I DIDN'T SENSE ANYTHING AT ALL THIS TIME...
.....
I COULDN'T EVEN STOP IT IF I TRIED.

ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING?

I'LL ASK HIM ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO AND THEN COME BACK~
REIYA-SAMA, HANG ON!!
YOU'VE GOT A LOTTA NERVE, MAYURA...
HEY, MAYURA, WHAT...
OF COURSE, FEEL FREE TO TREAT ME LIKE A MAID WHO WORKS FOR YOU~
WELL, FIRST LET'S GET REIYA-SAMA BACK TO HER ROOM...
AND SO!
REIYA'S DREAM WAS RIGHT!
THE MURDERER REALLY IS RISA'S RESTLESS SPIRIT, LOKI!
SO RISA'S BEEN REVIVED AND SHE'S GOIN' AROUND KILLING ALL THESE MONEY-GRUBBIN' JERKS!
HMM.. MAYBE I'M THE DETECTIVE!?
BLUNTLY
...HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING, LOKI!?
ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?

WHAT THE HECK IS NECRO-MANCY...?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I TRIED NECRO-MANCY!!
THE ROOM THAT SATOMI DIED IN?
WHO ARE YOU EVEN TALKING TO, LOKI...
TA DAH!
YIKES!
PWOOF!!
ACCIDENTAL
異氛発
DISCHARGE
I'LL CALL SATOMI-SAN BACK HERE AND ASK HER FACE TO FACE.
YOU KNOW, LIKE A SO-CALLED MEDIUM?
IT'S A TECHNIQUE BY WHICH ONE CAN RECALL THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD AND SPEAK TO THEM.
DID IT WORK!?

SHWOOOOSH.....
HMM... WHAT DO I DO... MEBBE SOMETHING WITH A FALL EGGPLANT...
MEBBE YOU SHOULD LEND ME AN ONION
...IS THIS SATOMI'S SPIRIT, LOKI....?
ALIGH, I CAN'T BELIEVE I SUMMONED ANOTHER WEIRD SHIKIGAMI!!
WHYYYY!?
OH, YOU'RE A BOILED EGG.
I CAN DO IT FASTER THAN FRYIN' AN EGG!
WHOA! IT CAN GO THROUGH WALLS!?
GO BACK TO MY HOUSE AND ASK YAMINO-KUN TO RESEARCH ANY UNIDENTIFIED BODIES FOUND RECENTLY.
AAA... GARLIC SWEET AND SOUR PORK...
FWOOSH
WELL... I CALLED SOMETHING AT LEAST. MAYBE WE CAN USE IT.
CAN YOU MOVE AROUND EASILY?
I'M COMING UP ON THE TRUE HEART OF THIS MYSTERY NOW, NARUKAMI-KUN...
AFTER YOU GO AND SUMMON SOMETHING LIKE THAT, YOU DECIDE TO GET ALL SERIOUS...?
WAIT... WHAT? WHY LOOK INTO UNIDENTIFIED BODIES?
FRYING PAN
I'LL BE FLYIN' LIKE A FRYIN' PAN!

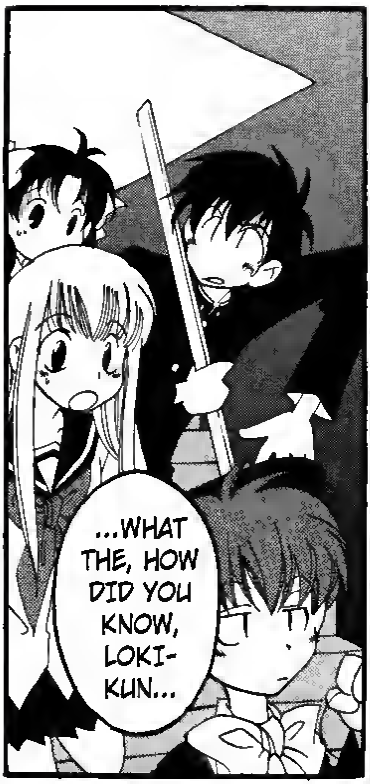
MAN, MAYURA'S BEEN GONE A WHILE...
SORRY FOR THE WAIT, LOKI-KUN!
I GOT SOME PRETTY RARE INFO~!
AND REIYA'S ♡ DOING BETTER!
TAP TAP TAP TAP
PAT
WHAT ARE YOU WEARING, MAYURA !?!?
EROS
TEE HEE! AS YOU'VE NOTICED, I'M A MAID NOW!
WELL, I HAVE THE CLOTH AT LEAST!
A MAID IN AN OLD MANSION... DOESN'T IT ADD JUST A TOUCH OF ATMOSPHERE...?
EN CHAN TED
IT'S YOU, SO IT'S RUINING THE ATMO-SPHERE!!
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY IT'S CALLIN' UP SOME KIND OF FEELING, I SPOSE...
BA-DUMP

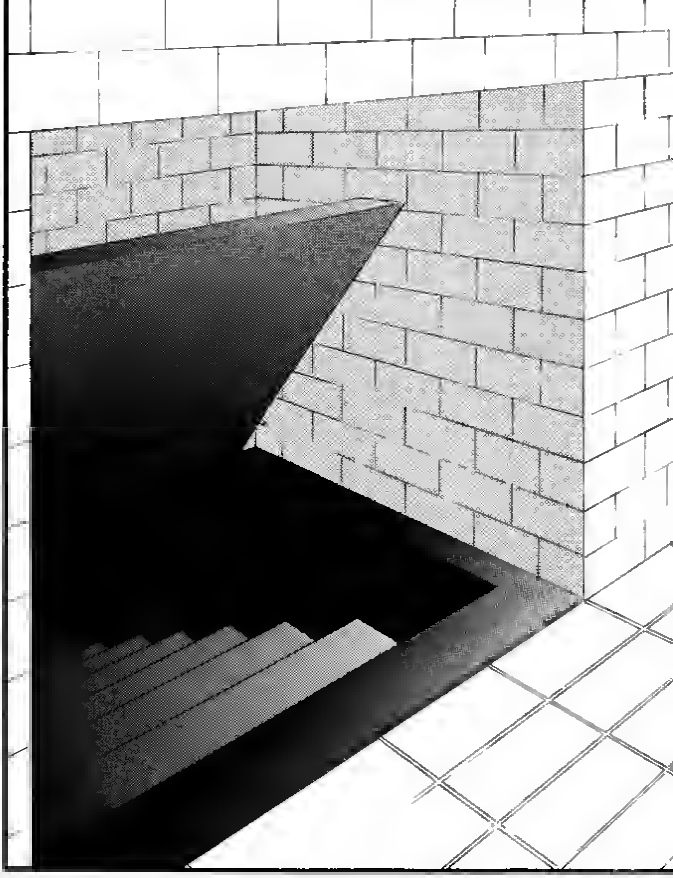
ACTUALLY, THERE WERE A LOT OF THESE MAID OUTFITS JUST LYING AROUND. IT SEEMS LIKE THEY USED TO BE SUPER RICH... SO IT'S NO SURPRISE IF THE INHERITANCE IS HUGE...
SO WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT THE ACCIDENT FIVE YEARS AGO?
RIGHT, IT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS CAUSED BY ONE OF REIYA'S FATHER'S EXPERI-MENTS.
RISA WAS THERE BY CHANCE, AND EVEN THOUGH THE ASSISTANT TRIED TO PROTECT HER, SHE WAS HIT AND HER WOUND WAS SO BAD THAT SHE DIED. THE ASSISTANT WAS ALSO BADLY INJURED.
WOW... HE RISKED HIS LIFE TO TRY TO SAVE HER?
AND APPARENTLY RISA-CHAN LOVED THE ASSISTANT LIKE A BROTHER.
.....SO WHERE IS THE ASSISTANT NOW? WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
EVEN THOUGH HE WAS SO BADLY HURT THAT HE LOST HIS LEFT HAND, THE FAMILY BLAMED THE ACCIDENT ON HIM, AND DROVE HIM AWAY.
HMM... I SEE.

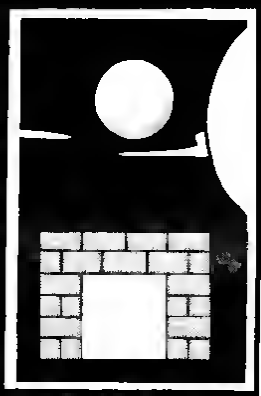
BUT I DIDN'T REALLY FIND ANY HINTS THAT RELATE TO WHERE THE STUDY MIGHT BE...
HMM... WELL, I GUESS WE SHOULD GO LOOK FOR SOME HINTS THEN.
HMPH
BUT BEFORE THAT, GO CHANGE, MAYURA !!
YOU WANT TO GO INTO MY FATHER'S ROOM?
IT'S JUST AS IT WAS WHEN MY FATHER DIED, BUT...
WELL, YOU SEE, EVERYONE HAS ALREADY SEARCHED IT...

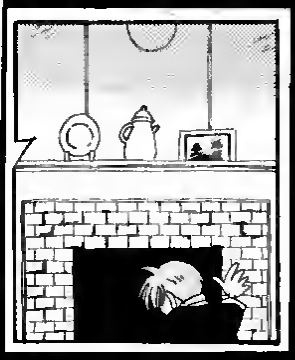
I HATE THAT STUFF
WHAT A GROTESQUE BOOK. IT SAYS "MUMMY" ON IT...
I GUESS IT MAKES SENSE THEY CALLED HIM AN ALCHEMIST... MAKES YOU THINK IT WASN'T JUST A NICKNAME...
BUDDHIST SELF-MUMMIFICATION
MUMMY
...ALCHEMY AND BOOK ABOUT MUMMIFICATION...
AND HE SAYS HE'S GOING TO HIS STUDY TO MEET WITH RISA...?
REIYA... CAN YOU TELL ME IN DETAIL ABOUT THE DREAM IN WHICH YOU SAW RISA?
OF COURSE... IT WAS NIGHT. THE MOON WAS PERFECTLY FULL AND BENEATH IT I SAW A BRICK HOUSE...
I WENT INTO THE HOUSE AND THEN...

I SAW THAT RISA WAS SLEEPING, JUST LIKE SNOW WHITE. SHE WAS VERY BEAUTIFUL.
.....
FOUND IT!
KAORU
WHAT... LOKI-KUN WHAT'S THE MATTER!?





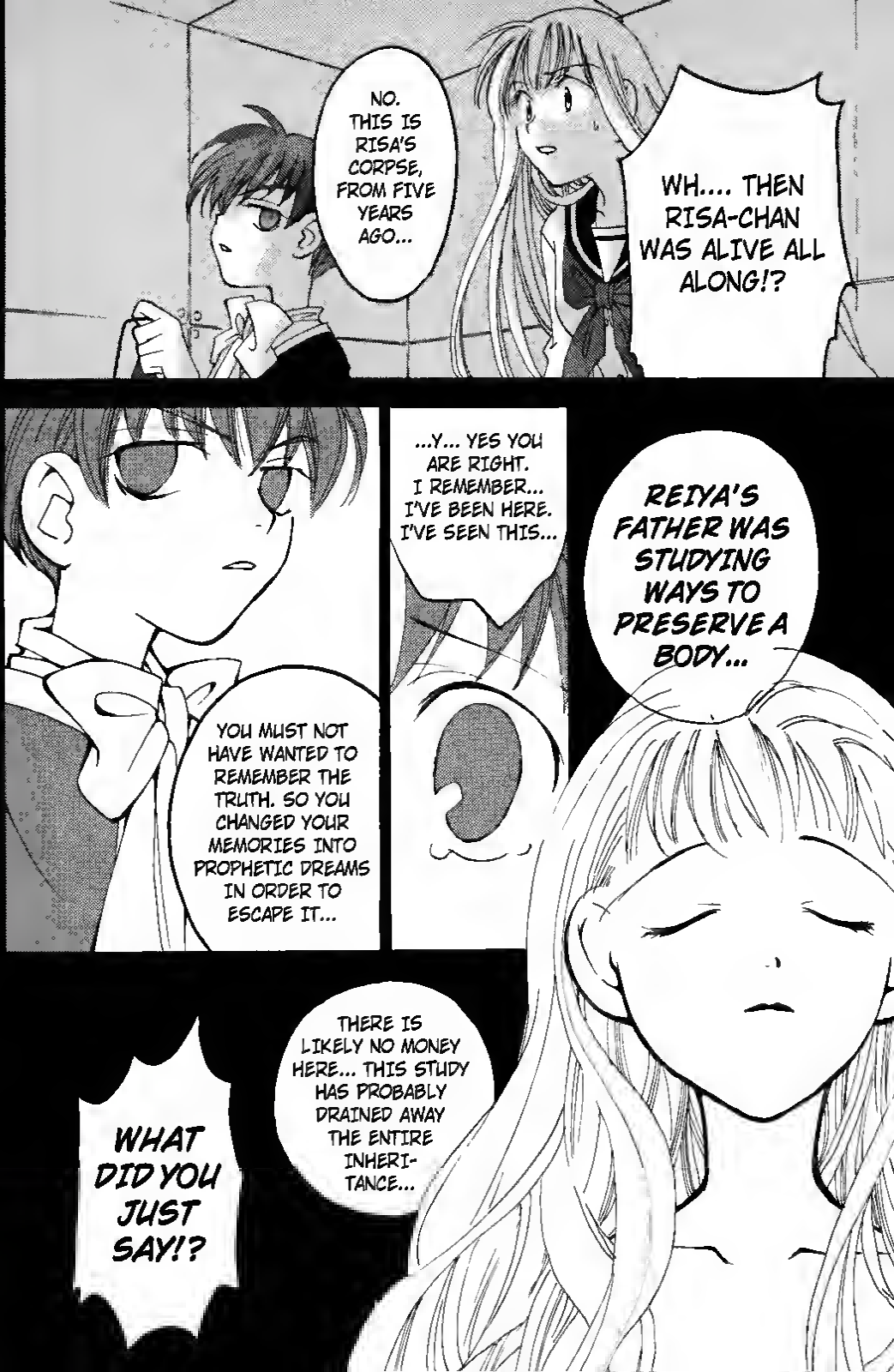




THE FULL MOON IN REIYA'S DREAM WAS THIS ROUND LIGHT FIXTURE.

AND THE BRICK HOUSE BENEATH IT WAS THIS FIREPLACE. WHICH IS TO SAY...

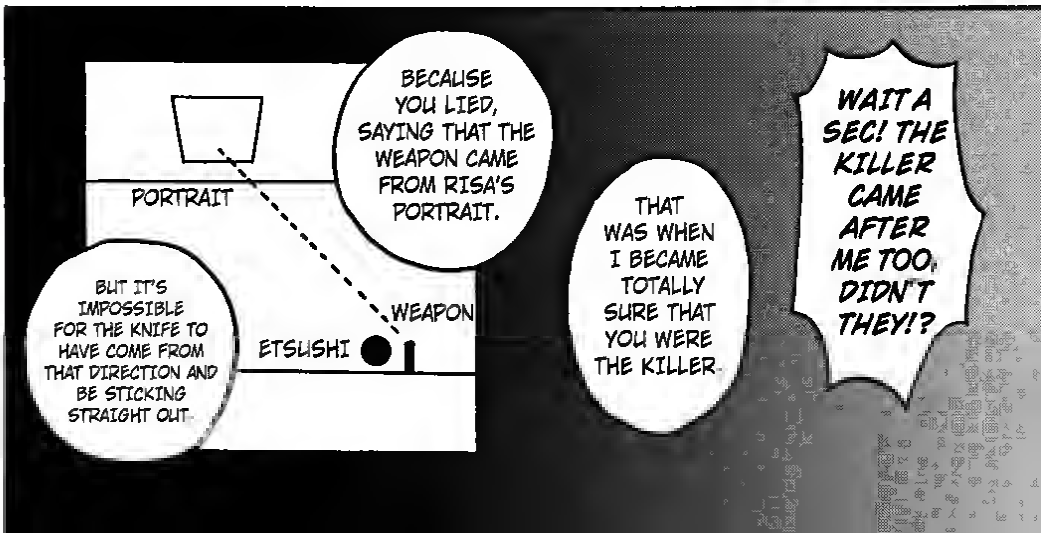
WELL... WOW. BUT THAT DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN THAT THIS IS THE STU-
AH!


NO. THIS IS RISA'S CORPSE, FROM FIVE YEARS AGO...
WH.... THEN RISA-CHAN WAS ALIVE ALL ALONG!?
YOU MUST NOT HAVE WANTED TO REMEMBER THE TRUTH. SO YOU CHANGED YOUR MEMORIES INTO PROPHETIC DREAMS IN ORDER TO ESCAPE IT...
...Y... YES YOU ARE RIGHT. I REMEMBER... I'VE BEEN HERE. I'VE SEEN THIS...
REIYA'S FATHER WAS STUDYING WAYS TO PRESERVE A BODY...
THERE IS LIKELY NO MONEY HERE... THIS STUDY HAS PROBABLY DRAINED AWAY THE ENTIRE INHERI-TANCE...
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY!?

HE WAS SO STINGY...
THE MONEY CAN'T BE ALL GONE!!
ETSUSHI-SAN... WHEN DID YOU GET HERE?
....
THAT... THAT'S RIDIC-ULOUS..
IT'S GOTTA BE HERE SOMEWHERE...
CLATTER
AH, YES... IT MUST BE DIFFICULT TO SEE ALL YOUR EFFORTS COME TO NAUGHT...
CLATTER
I MEAN, YOU WENT SO FAR AS TO MURDER TO GET YOUR HANDS ON THE MONEY.

YOU TOOK A NUMBER OF UNEXPLICABLE ACTIONS YOU SEE...
FOR INSTANCE, WHEN WE FOUND SATOMI-SAN'S BODY, YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO COVERED YOUR MOUTH. MEANING THAT YOU SOMEHOW KNEW ABOUT THE MERCURY VAPOR PLOT, RIGHT?
WAIT, WHY ME!?
ETSUSHI-SAN IS THE KILLER!?

YOU KNEW THAT IF YOU OFFERED TO CHECK DOWNSTAIRS, IT WOULD LEAD SOMEONE ELSE TO GO UPSTAIRS.
I'LL CHECK ON THE SECOND FLOOR.
MAYBE SOMEONE BROKE IN! I'LL GO LOOK DOWNSTAIRS!


PORTRAIT
BECAUSE YOU LIED, SAYING THAT THE WEAPON CAME FROM RISA'S PORTRAIT.
WEAPON
ETSUSHI
BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE KNIFE TO HAVE COME FROM THAT DIRECTION AND BE STICKING STRAIGHT OUT.
THAT WAS WHEN I BECAME TOTALLY SURE THAT YOU WERE THE KILLER.
WAIT A SEC! THE KILLER CAME AFTER ME TOO, DIDN'T THEY!?

OH, AND ONE MORE THING.
IN ORDER TO PRETEND THAT YOU TOO WERE BEING TARGETED, YOU TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO STICK THE KNIFE IN YOURSELF, WHILE WE WEREN'T LOOKING...
ONE OF THE UNIDENTIFIED BODIES IN THE MORGUE WAS VERY RECENTLY FOUND TO BE...
...THAT OF A MAN NAMED "ETSUSHI MURAKAMI." WHICH MAKES ME WONDER...
WHO IN THE WORLD ARE YOU?
AH, I WON'T BEAT AROUND THE BUSH... YOU'RE THE ASSISTANT, AREN'T YOU? THE ONE WHO LOST HIS LEFT HAND FIVE YEARS AGO IN THE ACCIDENT...
THAT'S WHY YOU HAD TO STICK THE WEAPON IN ON YOUR RIGHT SIDE. YOU HAD NO OTHER CHOICE.
BUT I'VE SEEN MY FATHER'S ASSITANT BEFORE! I KNOW WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE! AND THIS MAN IS DEFINITELY ETSUSHI!

WAIT, WHAT THE- LOKI, WHAT IN THE HECK IS THAT!?
HE'S PROBABLY HAD PLASTIC SURGERY... HE'S BEEN PREPARING CAREFULLY FOR THIS REVENGE FOR A LONG LONG TIME...
A DEMON THAT INVADES PEOPLE'S DREAMS AND CONTROLS THEM, CHANGING THEM INTO VISIONS OF THEIR GREATEST FEARS...
HE IS CALLED NIGHT-MARE.
...YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M THE KILLER.
AND I'VE ALREADY KILLED YUKARI AS WELL. IT JUST TOOK ONE SHOT FROM ONE OF THOSE RIFLES. A SHAME... I WANTED TO BE ABLE TO SAVOR HER FEAR TO THE LAST MOMENT...!

FWOOSH
GWA!
WH..... WHAT IS THA.....
WHAT'S THE MATTER, REIYA-CHAN!?
IT'S THE MOST SUPREMELY POWERFUL ITEM IN ALL OF ALCHEMY. IF YOU MANAGE TO CREATE IT...
POP!
...YOU CAN USE IT TO MAKE ANYTHING INTO GOLD.
HEY, NARUKAMI, DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE "SORCERER'S STONE"?
WHY WOULD I? BESIDES, THERE'S MORE IMPOR-TANT-

DOOM
TAKE MY SURE-KILL FIRST STRIKE LIGHTNING GUILLOTINE BLOW!!
!
NOW THEN, NIGHT-MARE.
LET ME SHOW YOU A TRUE GOD'S VERSION OF ALCHEMY.

RISA...
IF IT WOULD HAVE SAVED YOU, I WOULD LIKELY HAVE SACRIFICED NOT JUST MY LEFT HAND, BUT EVERYTHING I HAVE IN THIS WORLD...

...AW, IT DIDN'T TURN INTO GOLD. WHAT A SHAME.
WHAT IN THE WORLD WAS THAT... THAT WIND... AN INDOOR TORNADO OR SOMETHING!?
THAT FELT GOOD...
I GUESS IT WONT WORK IF IT'S TOO IMPURE
CRUMBLE

SMIRK
KLICK
I JUST HAVE ONE THING TO ASK YOU.
WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO COME AFTER ME?
SHUT UP!
KATHUNK
LOOKING AT YOU LIKE THIS, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL BAD FOR YOU, POOR LITTLE RISA...
!?

FWOOM
WHAT THE HECK!?
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE, LOKI!!
TCH
WHAT IS WRONG WITH HIM...!?
IS HE STILL POSSESSED BY SOME-THING ELSE!?

WOW... THE FIRE SURE SPREAD QUICKLY...
MY SIS-TER...
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THE KILLER WASN'T JUST TRYING TO THROW US OFF WITH THE TRAIL OF ALCHEMY...
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THIS MANSION... PERHAPS IT WAS ULTIMATELY EXACTLY WHAT REIYA'S FATHER WANTED...

REIYA-CHAN, YOU'VE DECIDED TO MOVE MORE CLOSE BY?
I'M UNEM-PLOYED...
BUT... LIKE I SAID, WHY?
WOW, THERE REALLY WAS STILL SOME MONEY IN THE FAMILY, THEN.
SLURRP
YES, I HAVE! MINO-SAN AND I SOLD THE LAND AND THE MOUNTAIN!
?
WELL... YOU SEE... I FELT I MIGHT WANT TO BE A BIT CLOSER TO LOKI-SAMA...
BLUSH
PUNYA
PUNYA
I SHALL RETURN, LOKI-SAMA!
WELL, I GUESS I SHOULD GO HOME AND LOOK FOR WORK, NOW I'M DONE EATING.

KACHAK
UM... WELL... PARDON ME, NARUGAMI-SAN...
LAST NIGHT I HAD A DREAM, YOU SEE...
OH? ABOUT WHAT?
...YOU WERE ATTEMPTING TO KILL LOKI-SAMA.
I HOPE THAT YOU...
DO NOT DO THAT.

YAWWWN.... MY GOSH, THIS WAS A REALLY AN AGONIZING ONE, WASN'T IT....
....DOES THAT MEAN MY DREAM WILL COME TRUE TOO?
....THEN THAT'S WHAT I... TO KILL LOKI...?

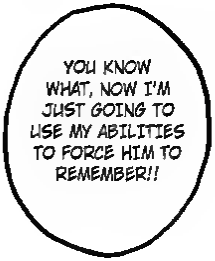
OH YES, MAYURA-SAN, IS YOUR PAPA ALL RIGHT? HE SEEMED TO BE QUITE FURIOUS WHEN HE WENT HOME, YOU SEE...
LOKI-KUN SAID HE WAS ABSOLUTELY NOT GOING TO RIDE IN A CAR, AND HE MADE US WALK FOR HOURS ON THOSE MOUNTAIN PATHS...
IT WAS EVEN TOUGHER FOR ME, TRYING TO COME HOME...
MMMAKE A SAND-WICH WITH LETTUCE...
WHEN I FINALLY CAME TO GET YOU AND I SAW THE HOUSE WAS ON FIRE, AND THAT LOKI-SAMA'S FACE HAD BEEN INJURED, MY HEART ALMOST STOPPED....
MOVED...
I GOT ONE!
PUT ON THAT MAID COSTUME AND SPEND THE WHOLE DAY HANGING OUT WITH HIM, MAYBE?
MAID COS...
OH, THAT'S RIGHT... I HAVEN'T TALKED TO MY PAPA SINCE I HAD TO STAY UP IN THAT HOUSE... CAN YOU THINK OF ANY GOOD WAY TO DO IT, LOKI-KUN?
ANY BAD KIDS?
I GUESS YOU CAN CALL HIM AS FIERCE AS AN OGRE...?
LOST IN THOUGHT
GUH, YOU'RE ACTUALLY DOING IT!?
HERE'S YOUR TEA, PAPA!
OHHH, I'LL TOTALLY DO THAT! I DUNNO HOW WELL IT'LL WORK, THOUGH!

SO, MY PAPA IS ALL WOUND UP ABOUT MY HANGING OUT IN A DETECTIVE'S OFFICE AND EVERYTHING, RIGHT?
AND BECAUSE OF THAT BIG CASE WHERE WE WERE GONE ALL NIGHT, HE'S REALLY REALLY ANGRY AT ME...
....
SOMEHOW, I WANNA LET MY PAPA KNOW THAT THIS DETECTIVE THING IS HOW I'M MAKING MYSELF USEFUL! TO SOCIETY IN GENERAL!
....AND YOU WANT ME TO BE THE ONE TO TELL HIM THIS, IS WHAT YOU'RE SAYING...?

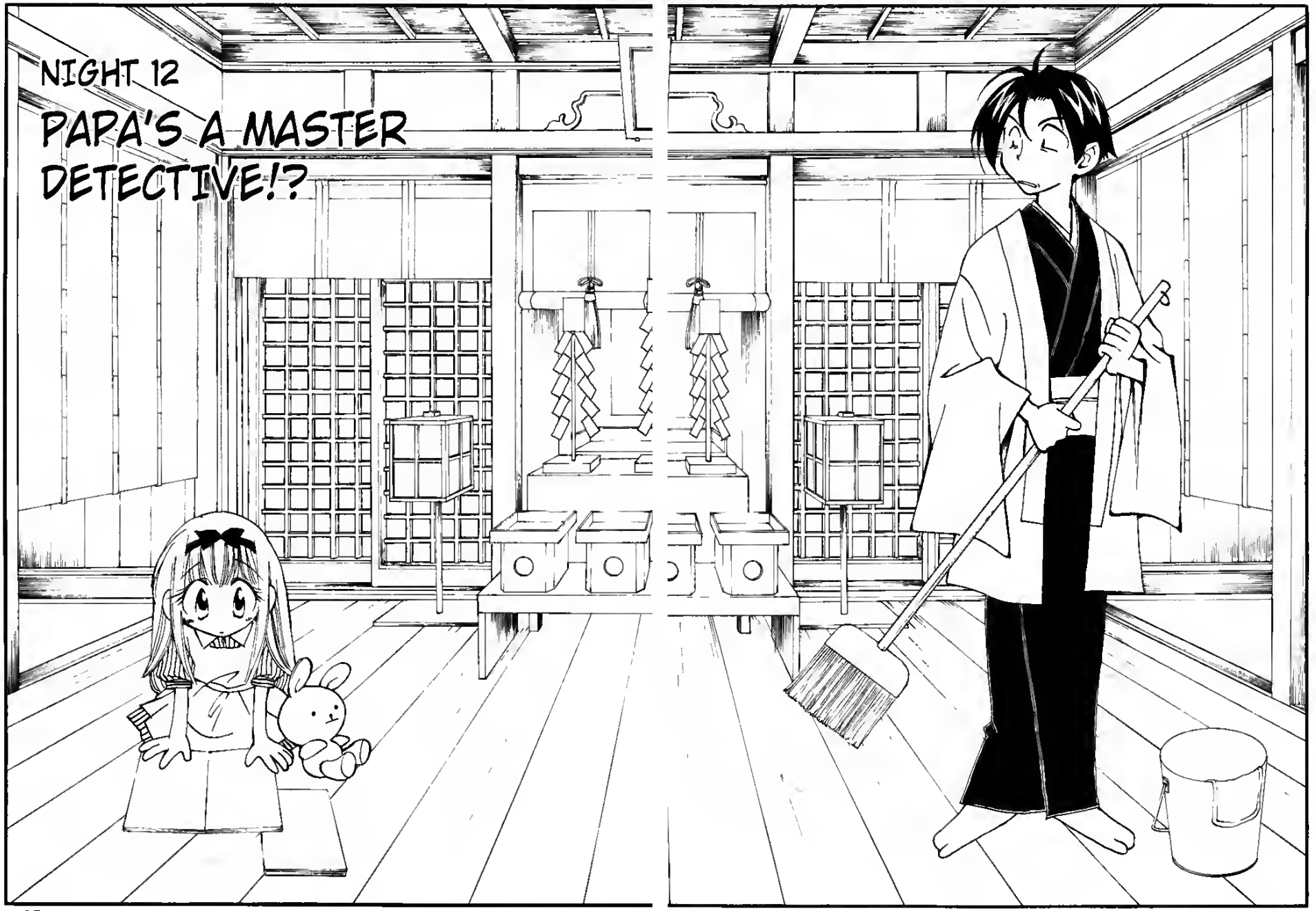
THANKS SO MUCH, LOKI-KUN~
BEFORE THE PIZZA COMES, I'LL GO DEAL WITH THIS THING.
OKAY, FINE...
WELL, GO AND ORDER IT AL-READY!
WELL, SINCE HE'S IN SUCH AN EMOTIONAL STATE IT'D PROBABLY BE BEST FOR HIM TO HEAR IT FROM A THIRD PARTY...?
BUY ME A PIZZA AND YOU GOT A DEAL.
P I Z Z A
HEY MAYURA-PAPA, HOW YOU FEELIN-
POP
SIGH
MAYURA HAS BEEN GETTING INTO SUCH WEIRD STUFF LATELY... WHEN DID IT START?
WHEN SHE WAS JUST A LITTLE GIRL SHE WAS SO MUCH MORE CALM AND QUIET... WHAT HAPPENED?

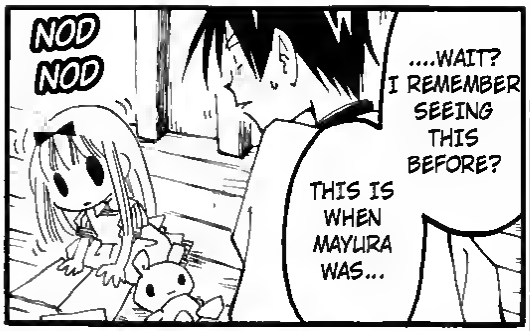
SAG
LET'S SEE... WHEN WAS IT...? I'VE COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN, IT SEEMS....!
WHAT? WHAT?
SUPER INTER-ESTED
ACTUALLY, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
LOKI-SAMA, CALM DOWN...
IF YOU'RE LOSING TRACK OF YOUR THOUGHTS MAYBE YOU'VE GOT EARLY ALZHEIMER'S!?
WHAT IN THE-!?!? YOU'RE REALLY NOT THAT CONCERNED!?
EH, OH WELL. IT'S NOT ALL THAT IMPORTANT.
FORGETTING NEVER KILLED ANYONE.

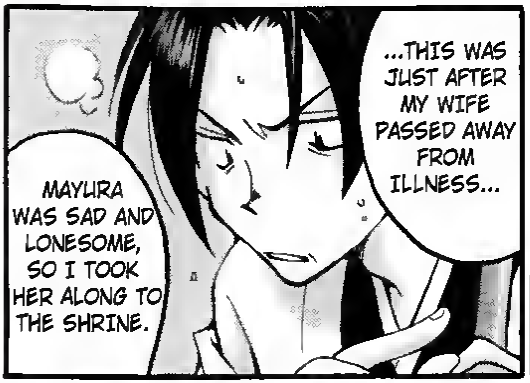
SWAY
...WHOA A TOUCH OF VERTIGO THERE...
...AM I TIRING MYSELF OUT..?
!


YOU KNOW WHAT, NOW I'M JUST GOING TO USE MY ABILITIES TO FORCE HIM TO REMEMBER!!

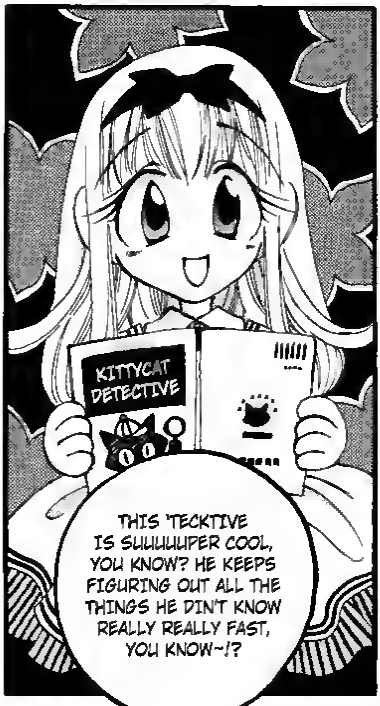
HUH?

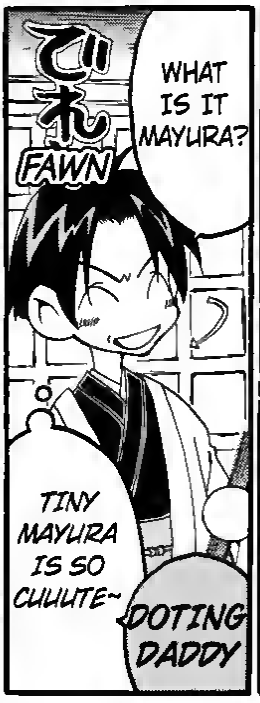

NIGHT 12
PAPA'S A MASTER DETECTIVE!?

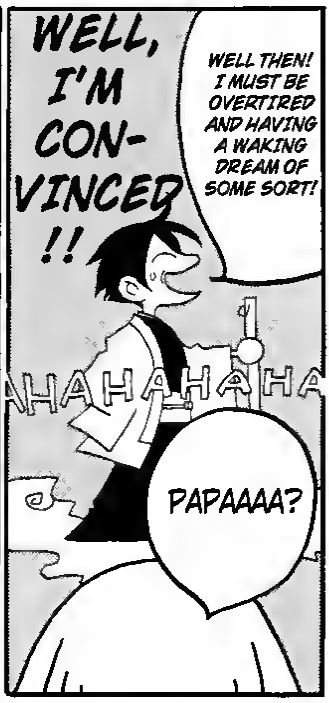

NOD
NOD
....WAIT? I REMEMBER SEEING THIS BEFORE?
THIS IS WHEN MAYURA WAS...


...THIS WAS JUST AFTER MY WIFE PASSED AWAY FROM ILLNESS...
MAYURA WAS SAD AND LONESOME, SO I TOOK HER ALONG TO THE SHRINE.

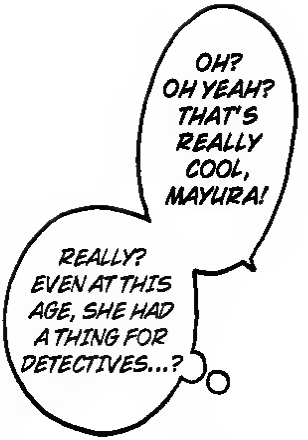
WAHHH...!
WHAT IS THIS!? HOW DID MAYURA REGRESS LIKE THAT....!?!?
DID I YELL TOO MUCH!?

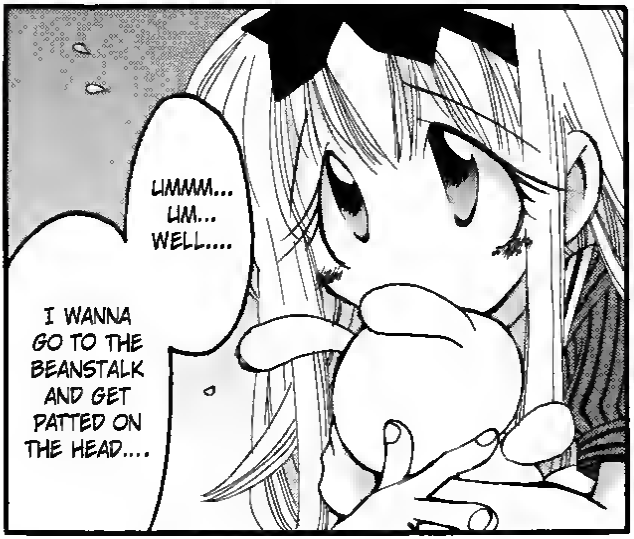

KITTYCAT DETECTIVE
THIS 'TECKTIVE IS SUUUUUPER COOL, YOU KNOW? HE KEEPS FIGURING OUT ALL THE THINGS HE DIN'T KNOW REALLY REALLY FAST, YOU KNOW~!?


でぃれ
FAWN
WHAT IS IT MAYURA?
TINY MAYURA IS SO CUUUTE~
DOTING DADDY


WELL, I'M CON-VINCED!!
WELL THEN! I MUST BE OVERTIRED AND HAVING A WAKING DREAM OF SOME SORT!
AHAHAHAHA
PAPAAAA?

....WELL IF YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL, THEN MAYBE YOU CAN MEET HIM, HM?
ERRRR...
HEY, PAPAAA? DO YOU THINK I CAN MEET THIS MR. DETECTIVE?
THAT'S SANTA CLAUS.


OH? OH YEAH? THAT'S REALLY COOL, MAYURA!
REALLY? EVEN AT THIS AGE, SHE HAD A THING FOR DETECTIVES...?

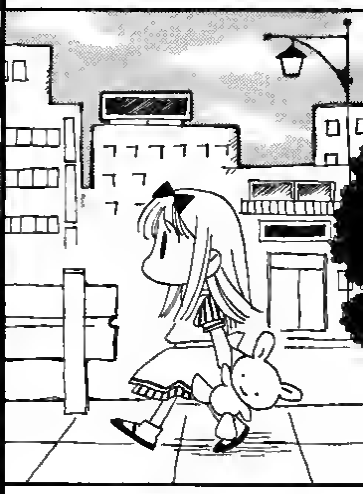

UMMM... UM... WELL....
I WANNA GO TO THE BEANSTALK AND GET PATTED ON THE HEAD....

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
ANYWAY, MAYURA, WHY DON'T YOU TRY PLAYING SOMETHING ELSE FOR A WHILE...?
A FATHER'S DESPERATE PLOY TO CHANGE THE COURSE OF TIME.

LONELY
UM, NO..... I MEAN...

UMMM... SURE, IF YOU STAY QUIET AND READ OVER THERE, THAT'S FINE!
DAIDOUJI-SAN...? HEY, IT'S MIYAMAE FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
BEAN-STALK...?

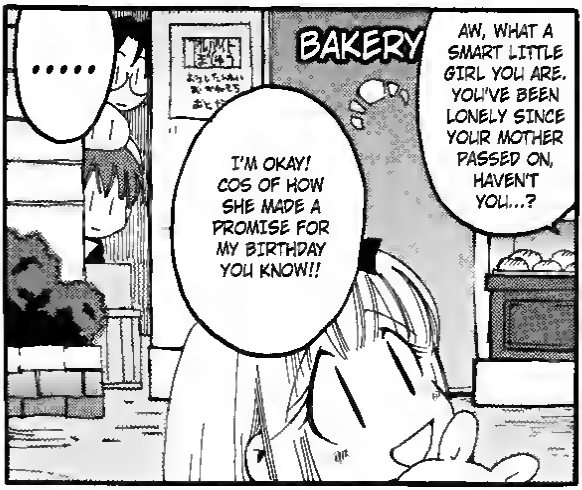
八百屋
WE'VE ENTERED MAYURA-PAPA'S MEMORIES, YOU SEE.
LOKI-SAMA WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THIS....?



THIS IS THE KIND OF BEAN THAT GROWS AT THE THEME PARK.
I WANNA GROW SOME AT MY HOUSE!
BROAD (FAVA) BEANS
TOMATO

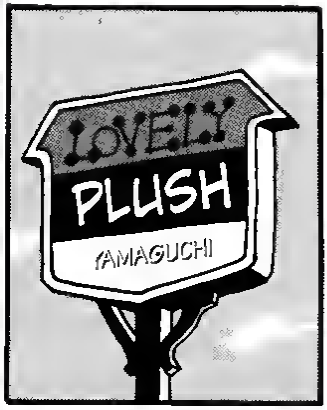
YEE HEE HEE
'COS I REALLLY WANTED TO KNOW HOW COME MAYURA ENDED UP THE WAY SHE DID, YA KNOW~!?

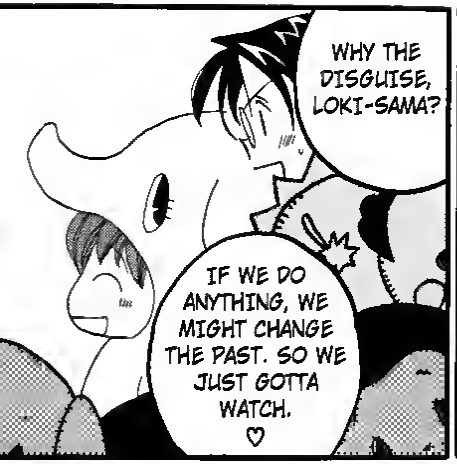
WHAT!?

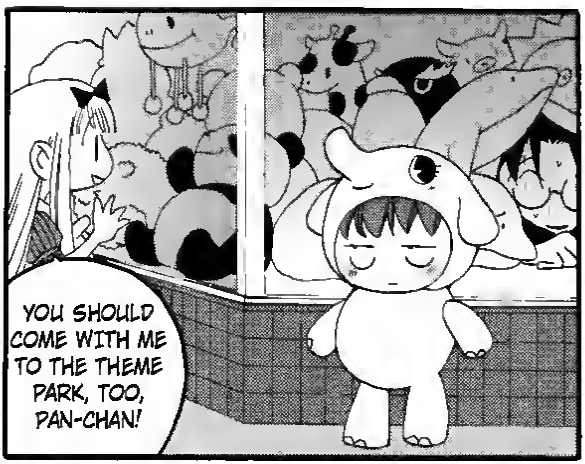

.....
BAKERY
I'M OKAY! COS OF HOW SHE MADE A PROMISE FOR MY BIRTHDAY YOU KNOW!!
AW, WHAT A SMART LITTLE GIRL YOU ARE. YOU'VE BEEN LONELY SINCE YOUR MOTHER PASSED ON, HAVEN'T YOU...?

I CAN GIVE YOU THE FAVA BEANS REAL CHEAP- OH, IF IT ISN'T MAYURA-CHAN! ARE YOU ALONE?
YOSHIKO
YEP! PAPA IS REAL BUSY WITH WORK SO I CAN'T BOTHER HIM!

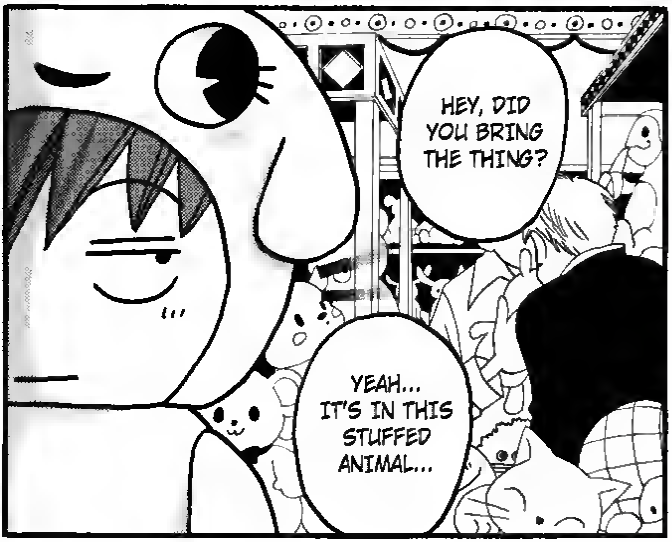
NI
HAO
HELLO THERE PAN-CHAN!
I CAME TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

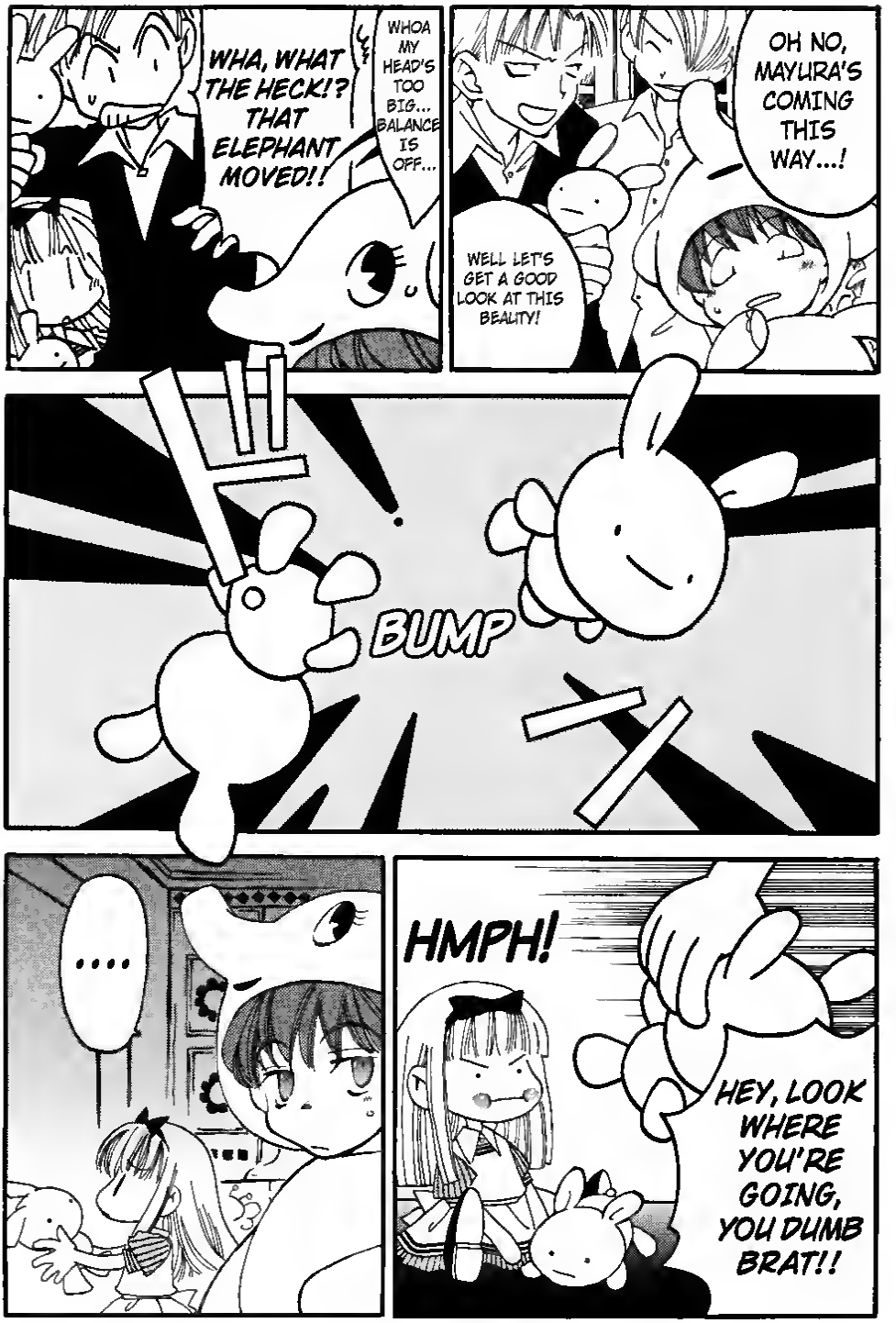

LOVELY
PLUSH
YAMAGUCHI


WHY THE DISGUISE, LOKI-SAMA?
IF WE DO ANYTHING, WE MIGHT CHANGE THE PAST. SO WE JUST GOTTA WATCH. ♡


YOU SHOULD COME WITH ME TO THE THEME PARK, TOO, PAN-CHAN!

I WANNA GO TO THE THEME PARK WITH EVERYONE REAL REAL SOON!!

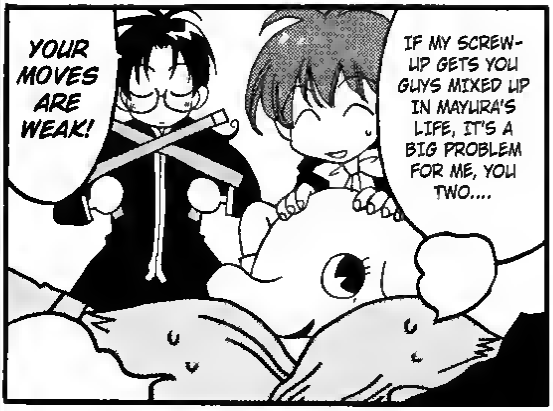

HEY, DID YOU BRING THE THING?
...
YEAH... IT'S IN THIS STUFFED ANIMAL...


WHA, WHAT THE HECK!? THAT ELEPHANT MOVED!!
WHOA MY HEAD'S TOO BIG... BALANCE IS OFF...
OH NO, MAYURA'S COMING THIS WAY...!
WELL LET'S GET A GOOD LOOK AT THIS BEAUTY!
BUMP
....
HMPH!
HEY, LOOK WHERE YOU'RE GOING, YOU DUMB BRAT!!

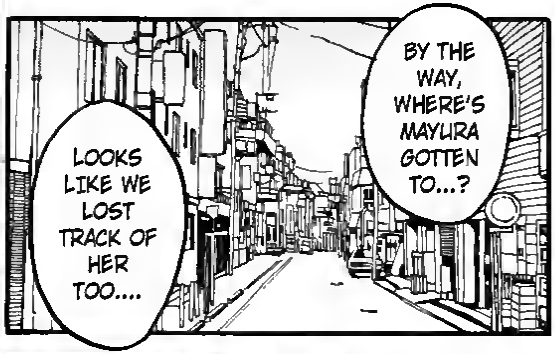
I- IT'S NOT THERE! THE GUN'S NOT THERE!!
!?
AAAHH~ THE OCEAN IS WIDE, CROSS THE STORMY WAVES... IT CALLS MY VOICE ALONGGG~
WHERE'D SHE GO...?
THAT LITTLE GIRL HAS IT!?
OH MAN, YOU DON'T THINK THEY GOT MIXED UP WHEN WE BUMPED INTO THAT KID?
STOP PAYING ATTENTION TO WEIRD SHIT AND LET'S GO FIND THAT GIRL...!
WHAT IS WITH THIS KID....
HEY THERE
THROUGH THE OCEAN SPRAY, LET THE SEA CARRY YOU TO THE END OF THE HORIZON~

AHHH THE JOY OF THE SEA~ CHIRASHI SUSHI~~
!
OVER THERE.
DASH
YOU SAW HER!? WHERE'D SHE GO?
ARE YOU LOOKIN' FOR A LITTLE GIRL CARRYING A PLUSH BUNNY?
SMILE
I'VE BEEN WAITING!
HELLO!
SHING
HOH!
HAI!
I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO BULLY A DEFENSELESS LITTLE GIRL!
WAAAH
DOH!

MAYURA!! WHERE HAVE YOU GONE!?
AAAALIGH!!

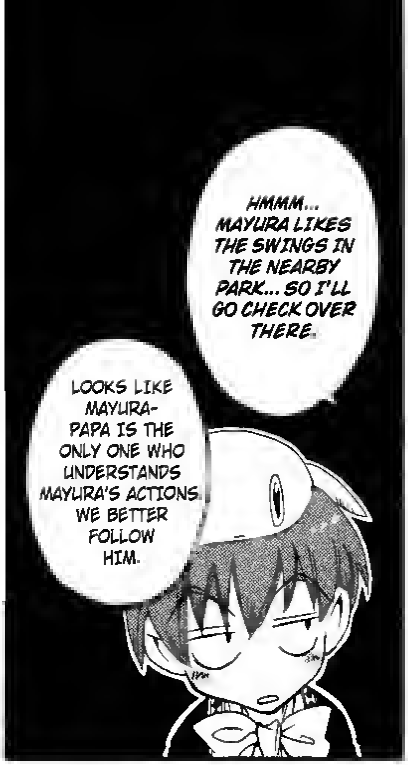

YOUR MOVES ARE WEAK!
IF MY SCREW-UP GETS YOU GUYS MIXED UP IN MAYURA'S LIFE, IT'S A BIG PROBLEM FOR ME, YOU TWO....

I'M TAKING A CORRES-PONDANCE COURSE IN TONFA SO I CAN TAKE ON NARUGAMI-SAN IF WE GET IN A FIGHT.
THOSE TONFA ARE PRETTY COOL, YAMINO-KUN.

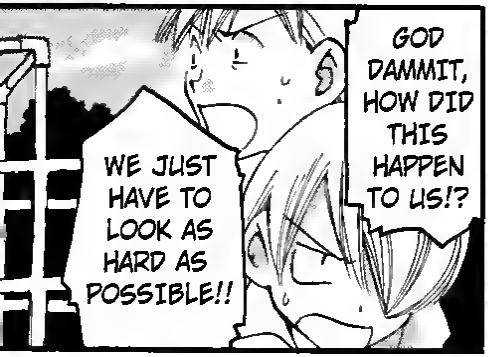

LOOKS LIKE WE LOST TRACK OF HER TOO....
BY THE WAY, WHERE'S MAYURA GOTTEN TO...?

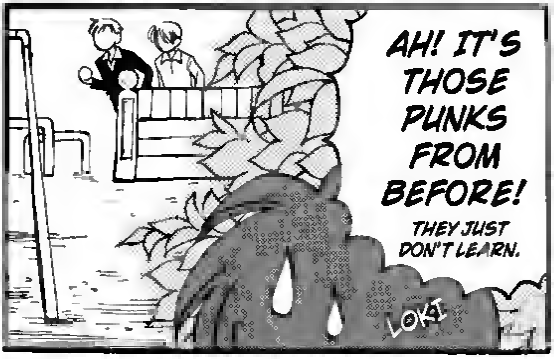
...THEREFORE, SHE WILL BE UNABLE TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TO MOVE AROUND.
BUT SHE ALWAYS SPENT IT RIGHT AWAY, SO SHE HAS NO SAVINGS TO SPEAK OF...
AT THIS TIME, MAYURA'S ALLOWANCE WAS ONLY 100 YEN PER DAY...
CALM DOWN, CALM DOWN. REGAIN YOUR COMPOSURE AND JUST THINK.

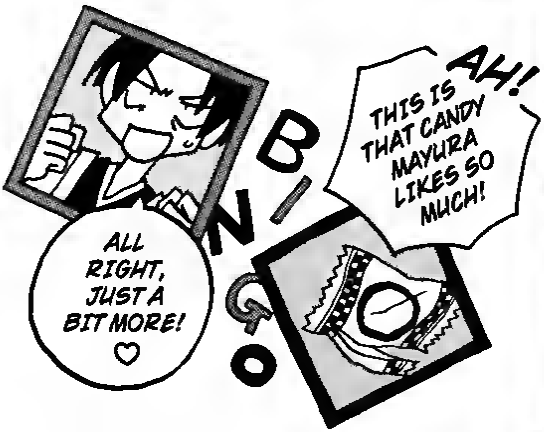
八百
MAYURA-CHAN WAS HERE LOOKING AT THE VEGGIES ALL ALONE JUST NOW.
I KNEW IT!
MR. DAIDOUJI!
AH, YES YOSHIKO FROM THE GREEN-GROCER'S. YOU'RE ALWAYS SUCH A GREAT HELP.
AND SO, SHE MUST BE IN THE VICINITY OF THIS NEIGH-BORHOOD...
AND AFTER THAT, WHERE DID SHE GO....?
HMMM... I'M NOT SURE... SHE DID SAY SOMETHING ABOUT A BIRTH-DAY PROMISE, THOUGH...
I WONDER WHAT SHE MEANT BY THAT...
A PRO-MISE!
PROMISE
SECRET
.....
HER MAMA MADE A PROMISE THAT ON HER BIRTH-DAY SHE'D BUY HER THIS STUFFED ANIMAL...
AH! MAYURA-PAPA!


HMMM... MAYURA LIKES THE SWINGS IN THE NEARBY PARK... SO I'LL GO CHECK OVER THERE.
LOOKS LIKE MAYURA-PAPA IS THE ONLY ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS MAYURA'S ACTIONS. WE BETTER FOLLOW HIM.

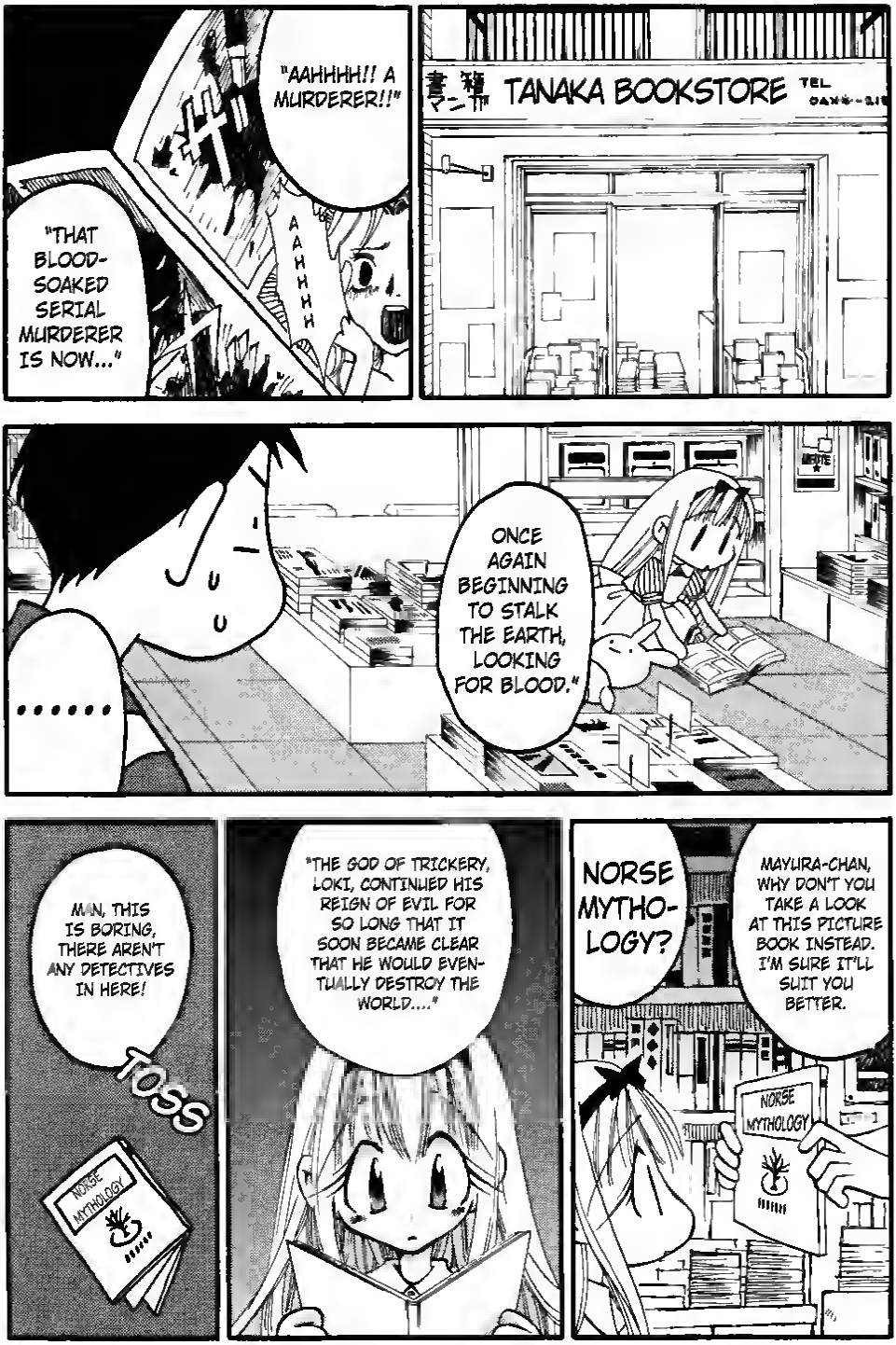
MAYURAA!

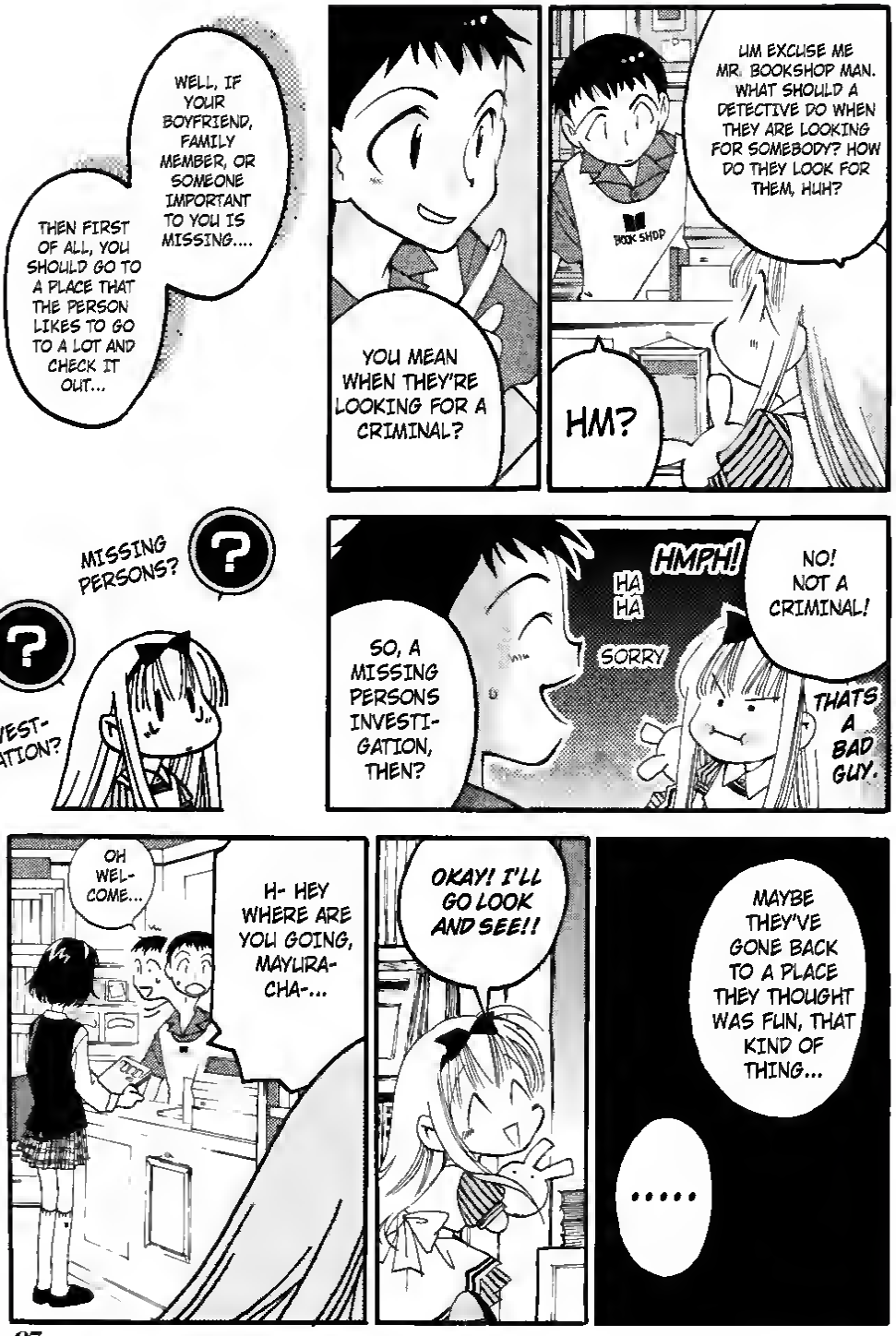

GOD DAMMIT, HOW DID THIS HAPPEN TO US!?
WE JUST HAVE TO LOOK AS HARD AS POSSIBLE!!


AH! IT'S THOSE PUNKS FROM BEFORE!
THEY JUST DON'T LEARN.
LOKI


ALL RIGHT, JUST A BIT MORE! ♡
BINGO
AH! THIS IS THAT CANDY MAYURA LIKES SO MUCH!

MAYURA'S IN TROUBLE... I HOPE THOSE PUNKS DON'T FIND HER BEFORE HER PAPA DOES...


"AAHHHH!! A MURDERER!!"
AAHHHH
"THAT BLOOD-SOAKED SERIAL MURDERER IS NOW..."
書籍 TANAKA BOOKSTORE TEL
ONCE AGAIN BEGINNING TO STALK THE EARTH, LOOKING FOR BLOOD."
.....
MAN, THIS IS BORING, THERE AREN'T ANY DETECTIVES IN HERE!
TOSS
NORSE MYTHOLOGY
"THE GOD OF TRICKERY, LOKI, CONTINUED HIS REIGN OF EVIL FOR SO LONG THAT IT SOON BECAME CLEAR THAT HE WOULD EVENTUALLY DESTROY THE WORLD...."
NORSE MYTHO-LOGY?
MAYURA-CHAN, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THIS PICTURE BOOK INSTEAD. I'M SURE IT'LL SUIT YOU BETTER.
NORSE MYTHOLOGY


UM EXCUSE ME MR. BOOKSHOP MAN. WHAT SHOULD A DETECTIVE DO WHEN THEY ARE LOOKING FOR SOMEBODY? HOW DO THEY LOOK FOR THEM, HUH?
BOOK SHOP
HM?
YOU MEAN WHEN THEY'RE LOOKING FOR A CRIMINAL?
WELL, IF YOUR BOYFRIEND, FAMILY MEMBER, OR SOMEONE IMPORTANT TO YOU IS MISSING....
THEN FIRST OF ALL, YOU SHOULD GO TO A PLACE THAT THE PERSON LIKES TO GO TO A LOT AND CHECK IT OUT...
NO! NOT A CRIMINAL!
HMPH!
HA HA
SORRY
THATS A BAD GUY.
SO, A MISSING PERSONS INVESTI-GATION, THEN?
MISSING PERSONS?
INVEST-IGATION?
H- HEY WHERE ARE YOU GOING, MAYURA-CHA-...
OH WEL-COME...
OKAY! I'LL GO LOOK AND SEE!!
MAYBE THEY'VE GONE BACK TO A PLACE THEY THOUGHT WAS FUN, THAT KIND OF THING...
.....

...OH YES, THAT BOOK WAS THE LAST GIFT FROM HER MOTHER, NOW WASN'T IT....

REAL DETECTIVES LOOK INTO AFFAIRS AND LOST CATS AND STUFF LIKE THAT

HRMMM... SHE HAS BEEN READING THAT PICTURE BOOK TOO MUCH, I THINK.

...AND THEN MAYURA-CHAN SAID THAT A DETECTIVE CAN DO ANYTHING. SHE'S BEEN QUITE TAKEN WITH THEM LATELY, HASN'T SHE?

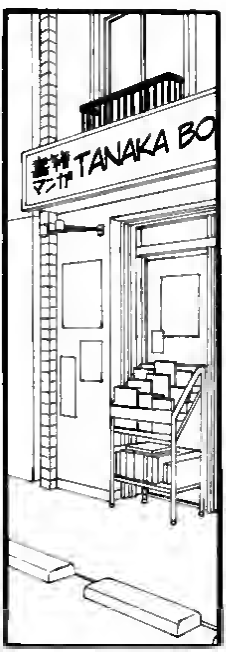
YEAH, SHE'S BEIN' WEIRD!

BUT EVEN THOUGH SHE ACTED QUITE BORED, WHEN IT CAME TIME TO GO HOME, SHE NEVER WANTED TO LEAVE...

WHEN MY WIFE WAS IN THE HOSPITAL, SHE NOTICED THAT MAYURA SEEMED VERY BORED WHENEVER SHE WAS SHE CAME TO VISIT, SO SHE SNUCK OUT TO BUY THE BOOK...

YEAH... AND THEN I TOLD HER THAT IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEBODY, YOU SHOULD GO CHECK THE PLACES THEY GO A LOT, OR THAT THEY THINK ARE FUN... WHEN SHE HEARD THAT SHE JUST TOOK OFF....

BOOK SHOP



SNIFFLE

I'M NO GOOD WITH TALK LIKE THIS!

....

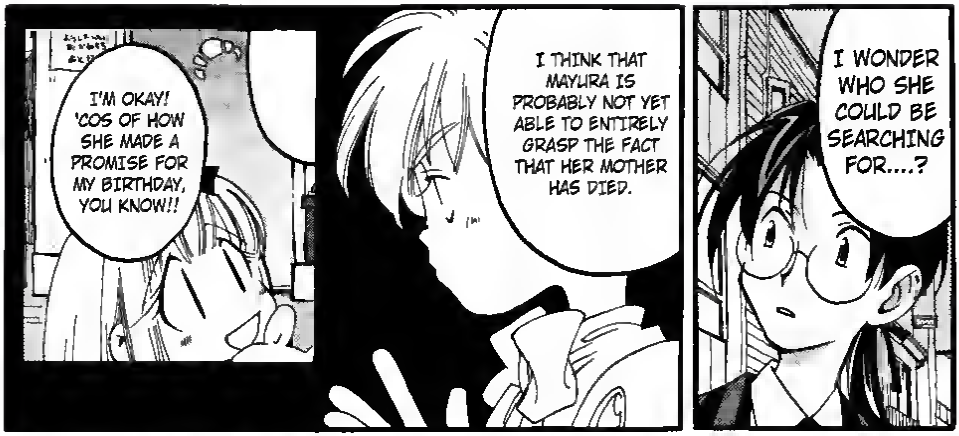
....MAYBE I'LL GO TO THE BOOK-STORE AND CHECK THERE...

TOY STORE
CANDY SHOP
PET SHOP

WHO'S SHE LOOKING FOR? WHAT KIND OF PLACES WOULD THEY GO?
PLACES MAYURA MIGHT FIND FUN....?

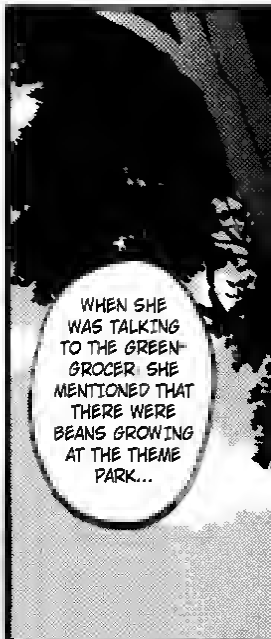
THIS IS NO GOOD...
WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHERE SHE COULD BE GOING, USING HER BEHAVIOR UP UNTIL NOW AS OUR CLUES...

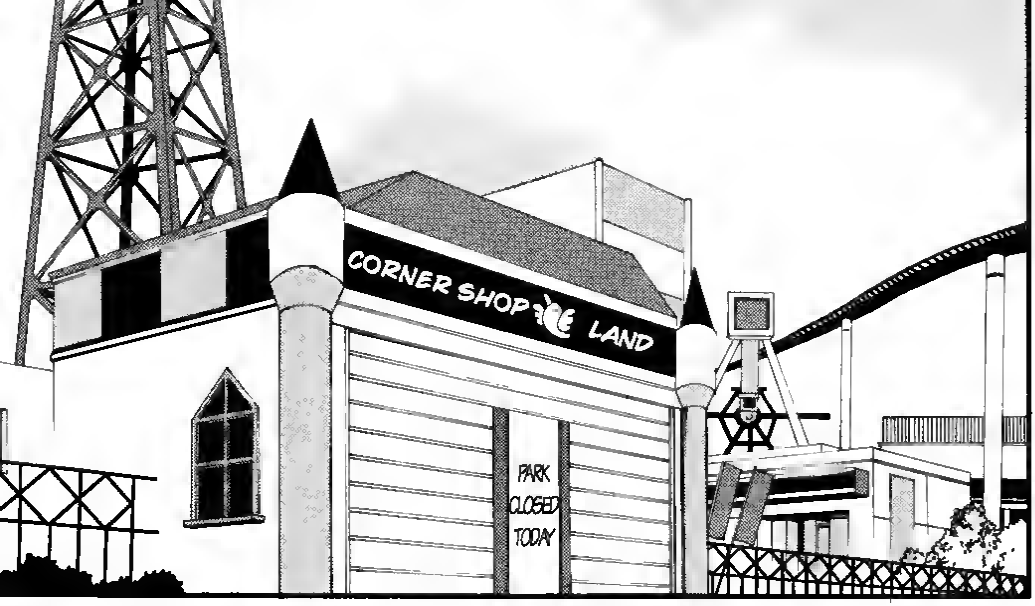
イライラ
GETTING ANNOYED
WE'RE GETTING NO-WHERE!
REALLY ANNOYED
イライラ


I'M OKAY! 'COS OF HOW SHE MADE A PROMISE FOR MY BIRTHDAY, YOU KNOW!!
I THINK THAT MAYURA IS PROBABLY NOT YET ABLE TO ENTIRELY GRASP THE FACT THAT HER MOTHER HAS DIED.
I WONDER WHO SHE COULD BE SEARCHING FOR....?

IT'LL PROBABLY BE THE THEME PARK THAT THE THREE OF THEM USED TO GO TO TOGETHER...
SO IF SHE'S GOING TO A FUN PLACE, LIKE SHE SAID IN THE BOOKSTORE...
YOU MEAN SHE'S SEARCHING FOR HER MOTHER!?

AND BESIDES THAT, THE THEME PARK IS CLOSE ENOUGH THAT EVEN MAYURA CAN GET THERE ON FOOT. LET'S HEAD THAT WAY!


WHEN SHE WAS TALKING TO THE GREEN-GROCER, SHE MENTIONED THAT THERE WERE BEANS GROWING AT THE THEME PARK...


CORNER SHOP LAND
PARK CLOSED TODAY

HEY, WAIT A SEC, KID!

THERE SHE IS!!

MMMF MMMF
WE'VE SEARCHED ALMOST EVERY PLACE A KID WOULD WANNA GO, TOO...
SIGH... CAN'T FIND THAT GIRL...

OH, WELL, HELLO MR. DAIDOUJI.
AHHHH... WHERE IN THE WORLD COULD YOU BE, MAYURA....
ARE THERE ANY OTHER PLACES SHE MIGHT GO ?

I JUST SAW MAYURA-CHAN A BIT AGO!
YOU-YOU DID!?
SHE SEEMED TO BE IN SUCH A GOOD MOOD.
I THOUGHT MAYBE SOMETHING HAPPENED, SO I ASKED HER THEN...
SHE SAID SHE WAS GOING TO GET A PAT ON HER HEAD FROM HER MAMA...
!
...MA-YURA...

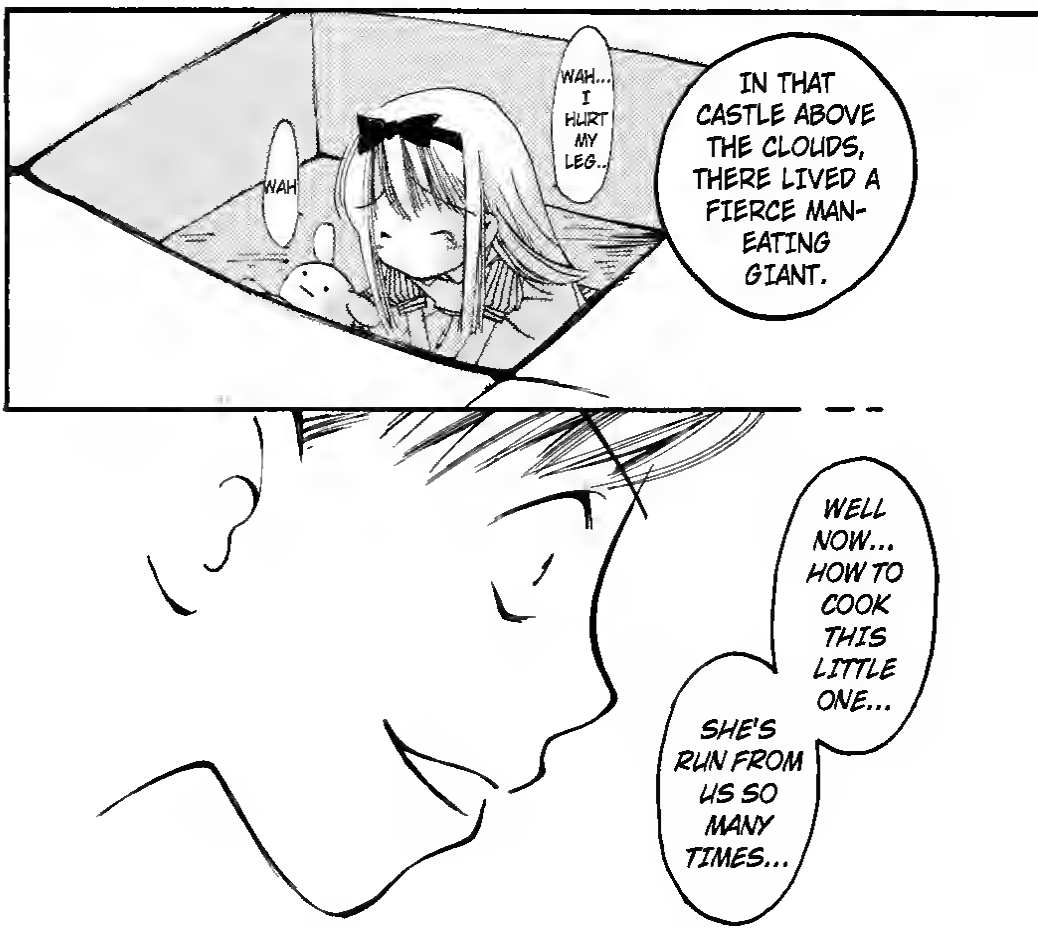
OUCH!!
NOW WE'VE GOTTA CLIMB ALL AROUND...
DAMMIT, THIS DUMB BRAT CAME TO SOME WEIRD PLACE.
WHAT IN THE HECK KIND OF PLACE IS THIS!?
MAN I GUESS WE JUST GOTTA AMBUSH HER AT THE EXIT.
WE CAN'T BE PLAYING AROUND WITH THIS KID ANYMORE!

JACK AND THE BEAN-STALK?
IT'S AN ENGLISH FOLK-TALE... A MAN NAMED JACK GROWS A BEANSTALK THAT IS SO TALL THAT THE TOP REACHES THE CLOUDS AND MAKES IT ALL THE WAY TO A CASTLE IN THE SKY...
THIS IS IT... THE BEANSTALK THAT MAYURA WAS TALKING ABOUT.

MMF
MMF
THERE HE FINDS A GOOSE THAT LAYS GOLDEN EGGS, AND A GOLDEN HARP.
EMERGENCY EXIT
IF SHE MANAGES TO GET AWAY FROM US AGAIN, IT'LL BE A PAIN.
BUT IF WE TAKE THIS CUSHION OUT FROM THE EXIT AREA, THEN SHE'LL FALL INTO THE HOLE.
I-IT'S THOSE GUYS!!
MAMA'S GONNA BE WAITING AT THE EXIT...

BECAUSE, THEY'RE ALWAYS WAITING THERE FOR ME...
PAPA AND MAMA... THEY ALWAYS WAITED AT THE EXIT FOR ME TO COME OUT...
PLEASE, MAMA... SAY WELCOME BACK LIKE ALWAYS...
AND PAT ME ON MY HEAD... LIKE ALWAYS.
FWOOP
すとーん
AAA
YAYYYY IT'S THE EXIT!!
TAPTAPTAP
ALL RIGHT, SHE'S COMING!

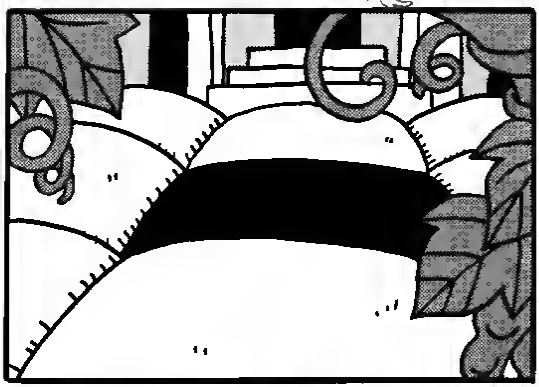
IT'S QUITE DANGER-OUS...
LOKI-SAMA, WHAT SHALL WE DO!?
PUNYAN!
WE CAUGHT HER!!
I LIKE KIDS. ♥ THEY'RE DUMB.


WAH...
WAH... I HURT MY LEG..
IN THAT CASTLE ABOVE THE CLOUDS, THERE LIVED A FIERCE MAN-EATING GIANT.
WELL NOW... HOW TO COOK THIS LITTLE ONE...
SHE'S RUN FROM US SO MANY TIMES...

HEY, THIS IS THE BUNNY WITH THE GUN IN IT!!
HEYYY YOU BIG KIDS!!!
JUMP
HEY IT'S THAT PLUSH ELEPHANT KID...!
WHAT!?
JACK TOOK THE TREASURES HE FOUND AND MADE FOR HOME, THE GIANT FOLLOWING BEHIND.
HE REACHED THE GROUND FIRST, AND THEN HE TOOK AN AXE TO THE BEANSTALK, CUTTING IT DOWN.
OH, HERE IT COMES! THE MAN-EATING GIANT!

AND THEN...
THAT WAS IT FOR THE GIANT!!
CHOP
WOBBLE
AAAAAA

SNF
I CAN'T GET TO THE EXIT!
SNF
I'M A BAD GIRL...
MAMAA!
SNF



MAMA!
PAT
PAT

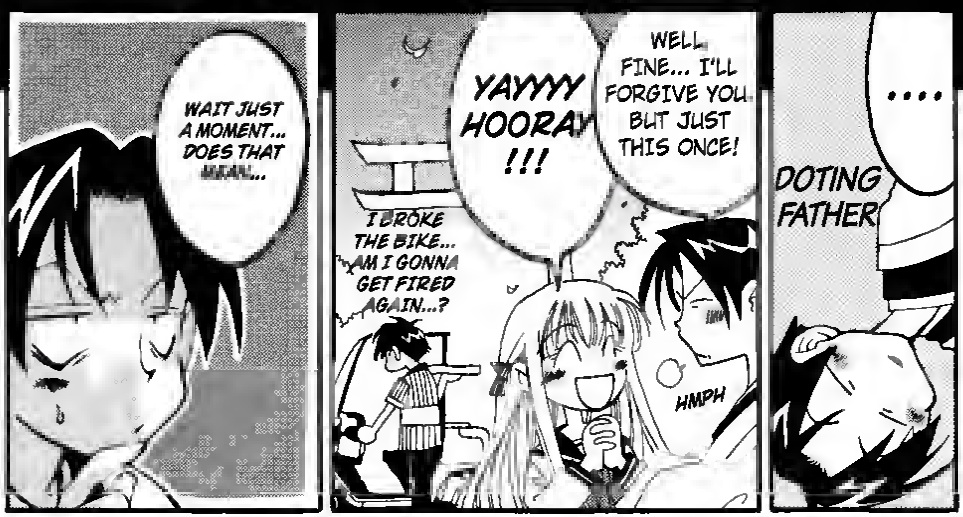
.....IS IT OKAY IF PAPA TAKES MAMA'S PLACE?

...OH, WELL THAT'S...
IF YOU WENT AWAY TOO, WHAT WOULD YOUR POOR PAPA DO?
MAYURA, YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO IS SAD THAT YOUR MAMA IS GONE!
PAPA, HOW'D YOU KNOW WHERE I WAS....?
.....
...BECAUSE YOUR PAPA IS A GREAT DETECTIVE!

HUH!?
KRSSCHHH!!
OW OW OW OW...
KITTY'S PIZZA
HE JUST GOT HIS MOTORCYCLE LICENSE.
WH- WHO'S THERE!?
PFF.. AND WE'D JUST GOTTEN TO THE GOOD PART...
NARUGAMI-KUN, YOU'RE A PIZZA DELIVERY BOY NOW!?
WH- LOKI!? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...!?
WAH, WHEN DID YOU GET HERE....!
LOKI-KUN, HOW'D IT GO WITH PAPA...?
IF YOU'RE GONNA APOLOGIZE, NOW'S THE TIME! DO IT!

PAPA... I'M SORRY I MADE YOU WORRY SO MUCH...
WHOA!! MAYURA HAS GONE BACK TO NORMAL...!!!
WH- WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
PAPA, YOU WERE SO COOL!
WHEN I GET BIG, I WANNA MARRY YOU, PAPA!!
AW, THANK YOU MAYURA, THAT MAKES ME HAPPY, BUT YOU CAN'T MARRY YOUR PAPA!
HA HA HA
MAYURA, YOU LEFT YOUR BUNNY BEHIND, DIDN'T YOU?
TOMOR- ROW LET'S GO BUY YOU THAT PANDA.
YAYY ♡
....PAPA, I'M SORRY I MADE YOU WORRY SO MUCH...

THERE AREN'T A LOT OF GUYS LIKE YOUR PAPA, THOUGH!
OH REALLY? I SEE, I SEE...
WELL THEN I'M GONNA MARRY A REALLY COOL DETECTIVE, JUST LIKE YOU, PAPA.

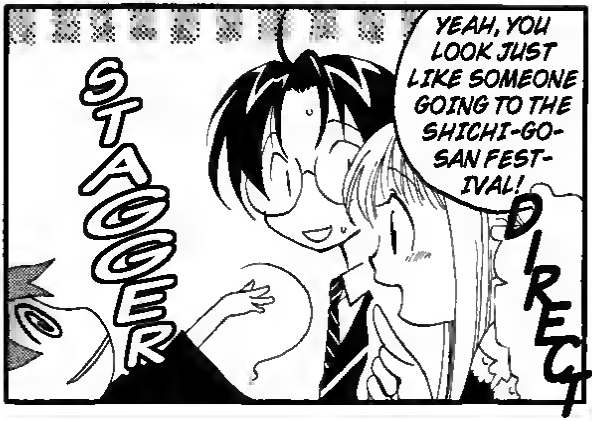

WAIT JUST A MOMENT... DOES THAT MEAN...
I BROKE THE BIKE... AM I GONNA GET FIRED AGAIN...?
YAYYY HOORAY !!!
WELL FINE... I'LL FORGIVE YOU. BUT JUST THIS ONCE!
HMPH
....
DOTING FATHER

SHE DOES NOT REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM BACK THEN.
AHHH... MYSTERY SOLVED~!!
AND IN THE END, HER PAPA WAS THE REASON SHE ENDED UP THIS WAY.
THIS KID IS GONNA BE HER HUS-BAND..!?

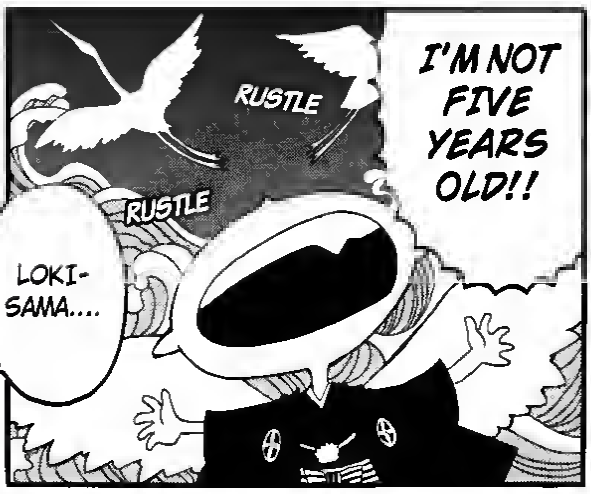
NIGHT 13
LOVE PARADE

YAYYY, IT'S GREAT WEATHER FOR A WEDDING, ISN'T IT?
I BORROWED THIS FURI-SODE JUST FOR THE OCCASION!
WHAT DO YOU THINK, LOKI-KUN?

TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
WHAT I REALLY CARE ABOUT...
IS WHY DO I HAVE TO WEAR THIS...


STAGGER
YEAH, YOU LOOK JUST LIKE SOMEONE GOING TO THE SHICHI-GO-SAN FEST-IVAL!
DIRECT

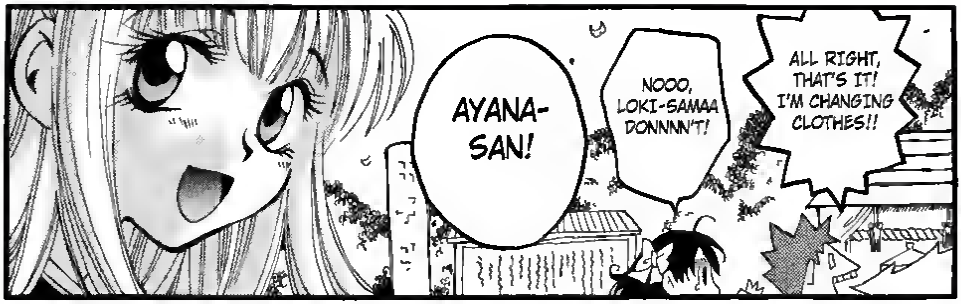
LOKI-SAMA! IT LOOKS SO GREAT ON YOU! EVERYTHING LOOKS GREAT ON YOU, THOUGH...
CLOTHES SALESMAN YAMINO
Y-YOU THINK SO?

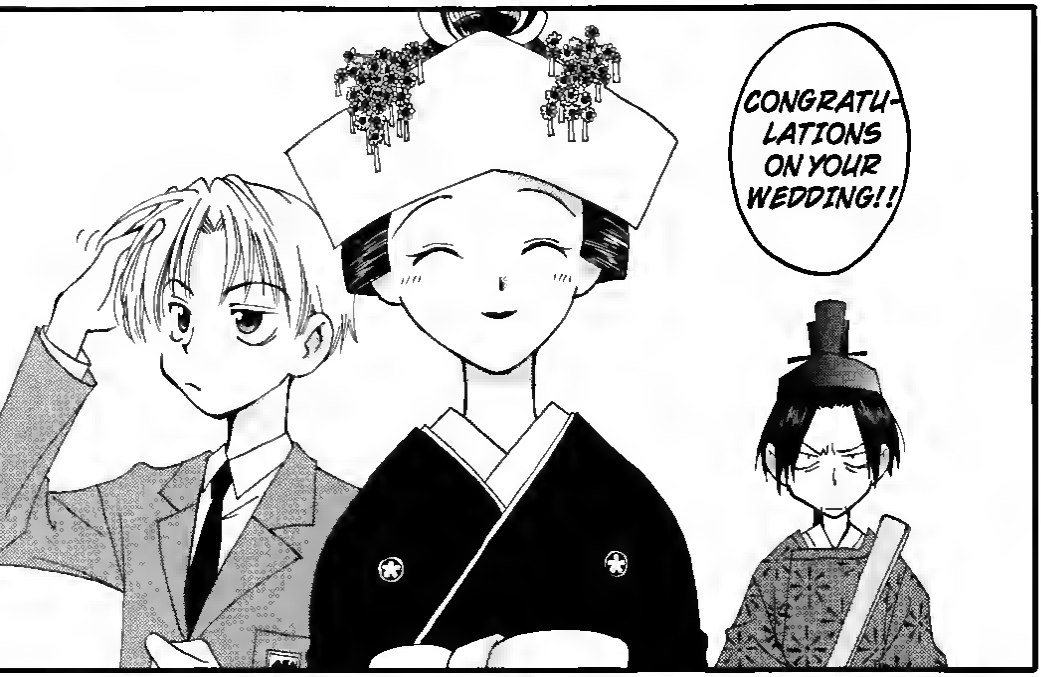

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
I'M NOT FIVE YEARS OLD!!
LOKI-SAMA....

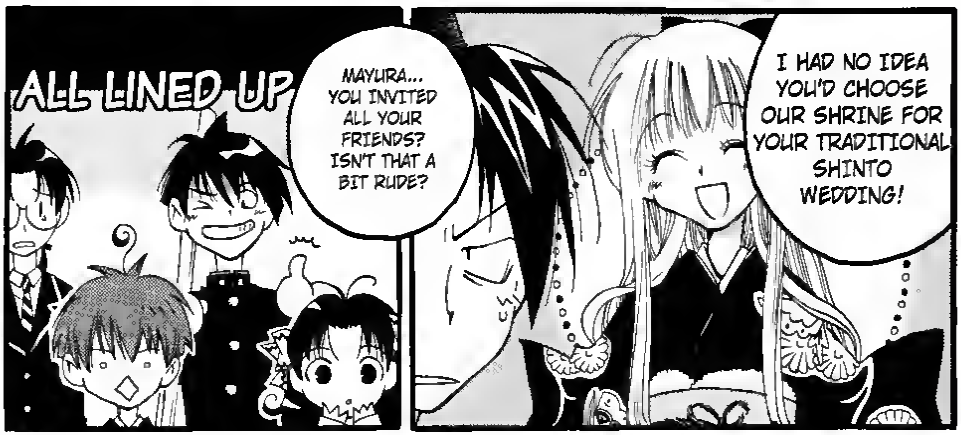
....LOKI-SAMA, YOU LOOK VERY HANDSOME.
OH, YOU THINK SO?
BLUSH
MAN, THE SCHOOL UNI-FORM DOES IT ALL, HUH?
WAH!
OH, REIYA-CHAN. WHAT'S UP?
STARE

AW, NARUGAMI-KUN, YOU'RE JUST WEARING YOUR UNIFORM! THAT'S SO BORING!
HAHA, WELL I GUESS I DO LIKE JAPANESE CLOTHES ALL RIGHT.
YOU LOOK SUPER COOL!
SUP?
I ONLY CAME 'COS I HEARD THERE WAS GONNA BE FOOD.

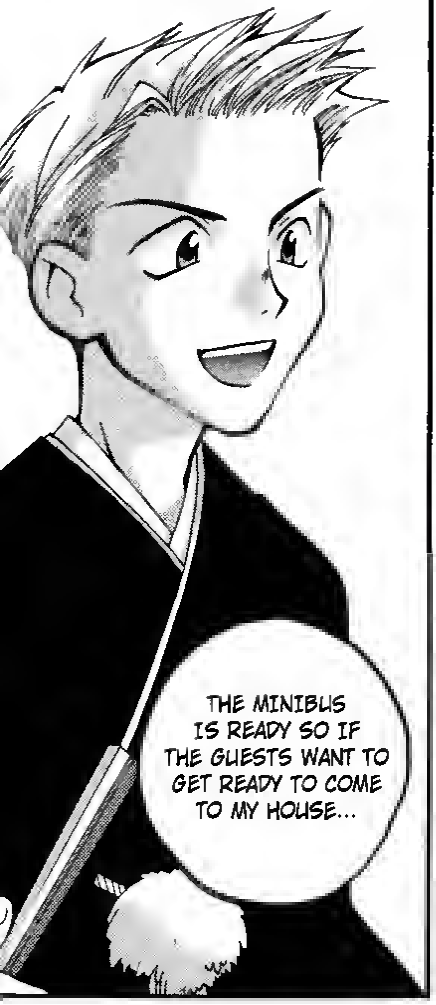
WH-NO!!
GET OUT OF MY FACE, JERK!
WHAT THE HECK, LOKI, IS SHICHI-GO-SAN TODAY? OR WHAT.
VE?
I HAD TO. THESE ARE PRETTY MUCH THE BEST CLOTHES I HA-


AYANA-SAN!
NOOO, LOKI-SAMAA DONNNN'T!
ALL RIGHT, THAT'S IT! I'M CHANGING CLOTHES!!


CONGRATU-LATIONS ON YOUR WEDDING!!

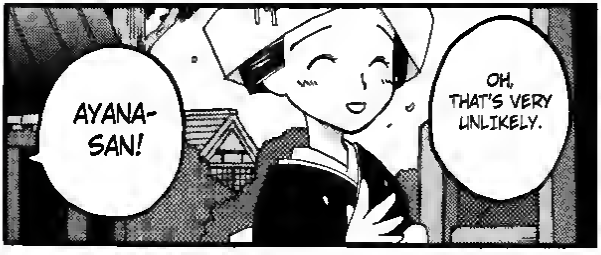

ALL LINED UP
MAYURA... YOU INVITED ALL YOUR FRIENDS? ISN'T THAT A BIT RUDE?
I HAD NO IDEA YOU'D CHOOSE OUR SHRINE FOR YOUR TRADITIONAL SHINTO WEDDING!

IF THAT GUY WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAME AT ALL, IT'D BE PRETTY DEPRESSING.
AYANA-SAN... I LOVED YOU SO MUCH FROM AFAR...
HEYYY, CUT THAT OUT!
PROFESSOR KAKINOUCHI'S ASSISTANT
KOGURE-KUN
YEAH, AND PLUS THE KAKINOUCHI FAMILY IS PRETTY COLD... ALL OF 'EM SAID THEY WERE TOO BUSY TO COME.
IT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT, PRIEST. I ASKED HER TO CALL THEM HERE FOR ME.
ESPECIALLY THIS YOUNG DETECTIVE. HE WAS OF VERY GREAT HELP TO ME RECENTLY, YOU SEE.
OH MY, WELL... YOU FLATTER ME.
BY THE WAY, AYANA-SAN SO FAR NOTHING HAS HAPPENED DURING THE CEREMONY, HAS IT?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT...
WHAT, WHAT, WHAT'S UP?
WHUH?
A MYSTERIOUS THREATENING LETTER!?
AYANO KAKENOUCHI
BEFORE YOU OBTAIN THE GREATEST OF HAPPINESS, YOU WILL FALL VICTIM TO THE GREATEST OF MIS-FORTUNES...
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME EARLIER!?

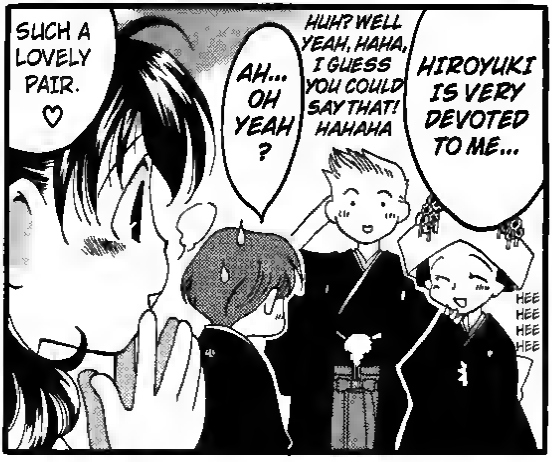

THE MINIBUS IS READY SO IF THE GUESTS WANT TO GET READY TO COME TO MY HOUSE...

I GOT THAT LETTER THE OTHER DAY... I CONSULTED THE DETECTIVE ABOUT IT RIGHT AWAY.
WHO'S IT FROM?
THAT SEEMS DANGEROUS, MAYURA. WHY DON'T YOU CALL NIIYAMA?

HEYYY, HI, NIIYAMA-SAN? IT'S MEEE~ WHAT LADY FROM THE BAR? NO, IT'S MAYURA-CHAN!
I WONDER IF YOU'VE DRAWN THE ANGER OF ONE OF YOUR HUSBAND HIROYUKI KANEYASU'S OLD GIRLFRIENDS...


OH, THAT'S VERY UNLIKELY.
AYANA-SAN!

AW YEAHHHH! THE WEDDING RECEPTION'S WHERE THE FOOD'S AT! LET'S GET ON THAT BUS DOUBLE QUICK!!
WOOSH WOOSH
HMMM... MAYBE THE LETTER'S JUST AN EMPTY THREAT...
WOO HOO!


SUCH A LOVELY PAIR. ♡
AH... OH YEAH ?
HUH? WELL YEAH, HAHA, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT! HAHAHA
HIROYUKI IS VERY DEVOTED TO ME...
HEE HEE HEE HEE

WHY IN THE WORLD, LOKI!?
IF I HAVE TO RIDE IN A CAR, I'M GOING HOME.
OKAY WELL, WE'LL TAKE OFF FIRST, THEN.
WE'LL SEE YOU LATER, OKAY?
FWIP
NOPE, WE'RE GOING ON FOOT, NARU-KAMI-KUN.
SAY CHEESE!
KACHIK
!
LET ME TAKE A PICTURE OF YOU!
AWW, BOTH OF YOU ALL DECKED OUT IN KIMONO!
HE'S GOT THAT MUCH FREE TIME, HUH?
LOKI-KUN, NIIYAMA-SAN'S COMING, JUST IN CASE.
HIROYUKI AND I HAVE A SIMILAR AGE GAP. ONCE YOU GET TO BE A BIT OLDER, IT DOESN'T MAKE AS MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE.
AYANA IS OLDER THAN ME!
COUPLE WITH A HUGE AGE DIFFERENCE
WH-
WHERE DID THAT COME FROM..!?
YOU TWO MAKE SUCH A CUTE COUPLE!
SMILE
SMILE

IT'S AT TIMES LIKE THIS... I GET MORE AND MORE UNSURE WHEN I LOOK AT LOKI, WHETHER THERE'D BE ANY MEANING IN KILLING HIM.
I'M ON THE SIDE OF GOOD, SO IF THERE'S NO GOOD REASON TO DO SOMETHING SO RASH, I DON'T WANT TO DO IT.

HE WAS A TROUBLEMAKER IN THE REALM OF THE GODS, BUT HE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING SO UNFORGIVABLE THAT HE MUST BE KILLED....

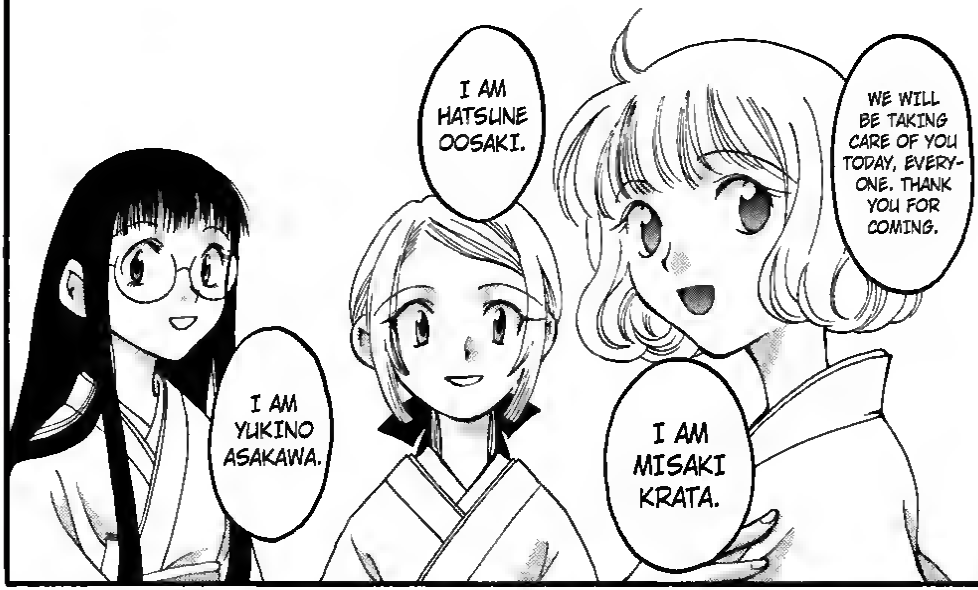
HMM
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE KNOWS THIS KID....
SO THE THREAT IN THE LETTER IS STILL YET TO HAPPEN?
WHEW... THAT OUTFIT WAS A PAIN!
NORMALLY, WHEN YOU WANT TO INTERRUPT A WEDDING, YOU DO IT DURING THE CEREMONY, DON'T YOU?
YOU SEE, I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT.
HMM... YEAH IT MIGHT JUST BE A FALSE ALARM.
THAT'S TRUE... SO IT WAS JUST AN EMPTY THREAT LIKE YOU SAID, THEN?
IT'S JUST GONNA BE SUPER FORMAL IN THERE.
HUH? ARE YOU GIVING US A GUIDED TOUR, KOU-CHAN?
MY, LOKI-SAMA YOU HAVE SO MANY FRIENDS!
A THREAT LETTER~
MAYURA, STOP BEING WEIRD!!
I MIGHT AS WELL SEE HOW IT ALL GOES, SINCE I'M ALREADY HERE
YOU LOOK GOOD IN REGULAR WESTERN CLOTHES TOO, LOKI-SAMA!
WHAT IS UP WITH THAT GUY...
MARCH
MARCH

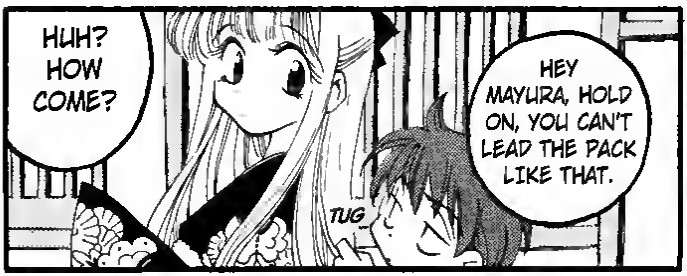
SUPER FORMAL?
THIS IS THE KANE-YASU HOUSE
THEY RUN A FORMAL TEA HOUSE, YOU SEE.

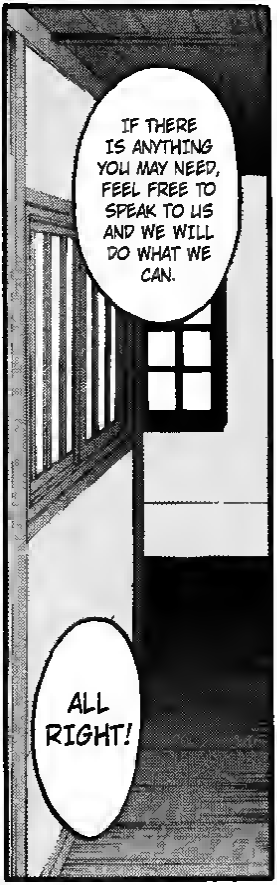
UMUUU
A TEA CEREMONY, YOU SAY...?

WELL, YOU GUYS PROBABLY DON'T KNOW ALL THE MANNERS AND STUFF YOU NEED TO KNOW, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...

TEA HOUSE!?
WHAAAAAAA I HAD NO IDEA!!

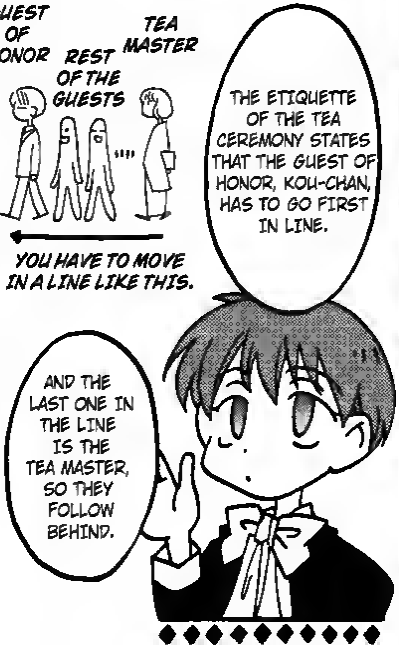

I AM YUKINO ASAKAWA.
I AM HATSUNE OOSAKI.
I AM MISAKI KRATA.
WE WILL BE TAKING CARE OF YOU TODAY, EVERY-ONE. THANK YOU FOR COMING.

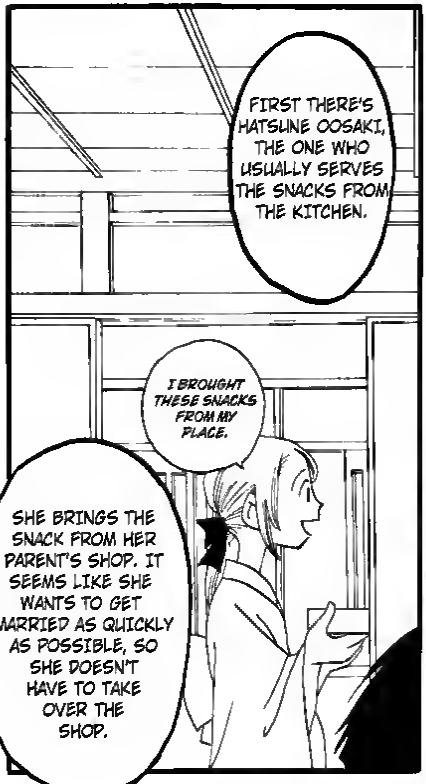

HUH? HOW COME?
TUG
HEY MAYURA, HOLD ON, YOU CAN'T LEAD THE PACK LIKE THAT.

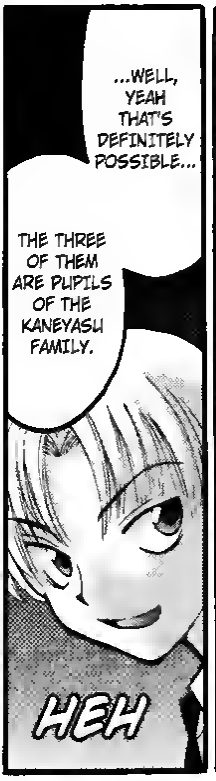

IF THERE IS ANYTHING YOU MAY NEED, FEEL FREE TO SPEAK TO US AND WE WILL DO WHAT WE CAN.
ALL RIGHT!

WHOOAHHH! YOU KNOW THE TEA CEREMONY, LOKI-KUN!?
WA HA HA HA HA HA
IT'S ONLY NATURAL!

GUEST OF HONOR
REST OF THE GUESTS
TEA MASTER
YOU HAVE TO MOVE IN A LINE LIKE THIS.

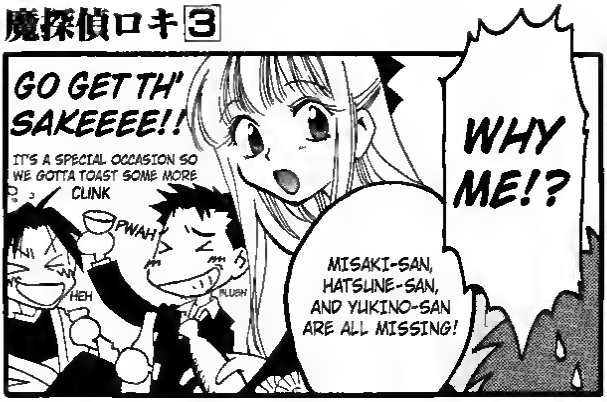

THE ETIQUETTE OF THE TEA CEREMONY STATES THAT THE GUEST OF HONOR, KOU-CHAN, HAS TO GO FIRST IN LINE.
AND THE LAST ONE IN THE LINE IS THE TEA MASTER, SO THEY FOLLOW BEHIND.


FIRST THERE'S HATSUNE OOSAKI, THE ONE WHO USUALLY SERVES THE SNACKS FROM THE KITCHEN.
I BROUGHT THESE SNACKS FROM MY PLACE.
SHE BRINGS THE SNACK FROM HER PARENT'S SHOP. IT SEEMS LIKE SHE WANTS TO GET MARRIED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, SO SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO TAKE OVER THE SHOP.

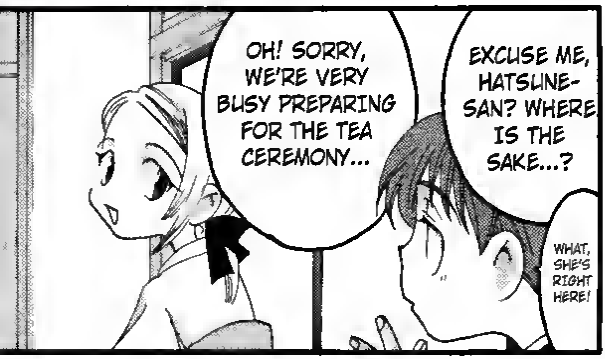

...WELL, YEAH THAT'S DEFINITELY POSSIBLE...
THE THREE OF THEM ARE PUPILS OF THE KANEYASU FAMILY.
HEH

SO, HEY, KOU-CHAN. WHAT ABOUT THOSE THREE GIRLS. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HUH? YOU MEAN COULD ONE OF THEM BE THE ONE THAT SENT THE LETTER, DETECTIVE?

AND FINALLY THERE'S THE LEADER THERE, MISAKI KURATA.
SHE'S THE STAR PUPIL HERE, AND IT'S LIKELY SHE'S AIMING TO BE THE NEXT HEAD OF THE KANEYASU SCHOOL.
THEN THERE'S THE ONE CARRYING THAT BOX OVER THERE, THAT'S YUKINO ASAKAWA.
SHE'S SUSPICIOUS FOR SURE. I THINK SHE ONLY JOINED UP AT THE SCHOOL TO GET CLOSE TO HIROYUKI-SAN.
DRUNK PAPA
DRAG DRAG
DRAG DRAG
FWSH
QUIT SAYIN' SUSPICIOUS STUFF AND COME SERVE ME SOME SAKE!
MAYURA!
IF THAT LETTER WAS MORE THAN JUST AN EMPTY THREAT, THE QUESTION NOW IS WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN, AND WHEN ..
PAT
DWUH
HM HM HMMM THOSE THREE ARE OUR POSSIBLE SUSPECTS, THEN!
!
IF SOMEONE WANTS TO STOP A WEDDING, WHY NOT DO IT DURING THE CEREMONY? OTHERWISE, IT'S PRACTICALLY MEANINGLESS, ISN'T IT...?


GO GET TH' SAKEEEE!!
IT'S A SPECIAL OCCASION SO WE GOTTA TOAST SOME MORE
CLINK
PWAH
HEH
BLUSH
WHY ME!?
MISAKI-SAN, HATSUNE-SAN, AND YUKINO-SAN ARE ALL MISSING!

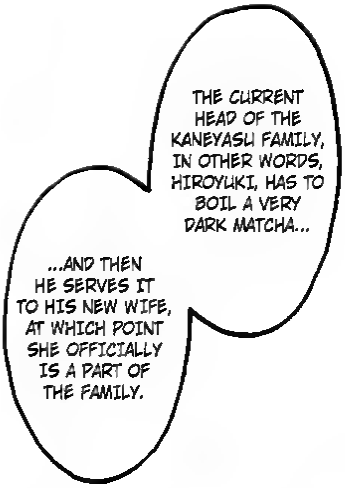
I WONNER WHAT THEY'RE AFTER...?
LOKI-KUN, COULD YOU RUN TO THE KITCHEN AND GET SOME MORE SAKE?
CHMP
CHMP


OH! SORRY, WE'RE VERY BUSY PREPARING FOR THE TEA CEREMONY...
EXCUSE ME, HATSUNE-SAN? WHERE IS THE SAKE...?
WHAT, SHE'S RIGHT HERE!

UGH... I'M ALL OUT OF SORTS WITH MAYURA HERE.....
PAF

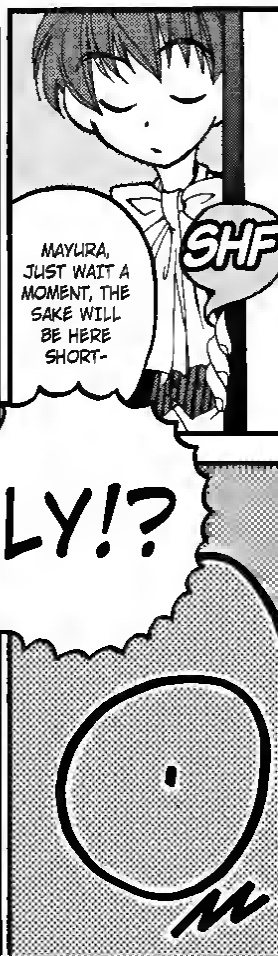
YOU'RE DOING A TEA CEREMONY?
YES, THE BRIDE-AND-GROOM'S CEREMONY.
WITH JUST THE BRIDE AND GROOM?

I SHALL BRING SAKE AS SOON AS I FINISH WITH THIS.
PATTER PATTER
.....
HMMM..

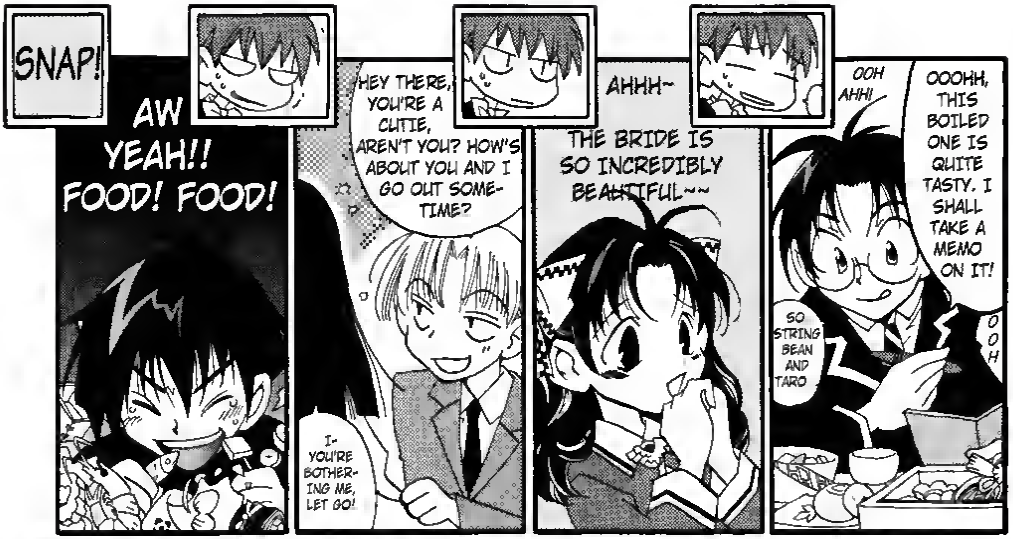

THE CURRENT HEAD OF THE KANEYASU FAMILY, IN OTHER WORDS, HIROYUKI, HAS TO BOIL A VERY DARK MATCHA...
...AND THEN HE SERVES IT TO HIS NEW WIFE, AT WHICH POINT SHE OFFICIALLY IS A PART OF THE FAMILY.

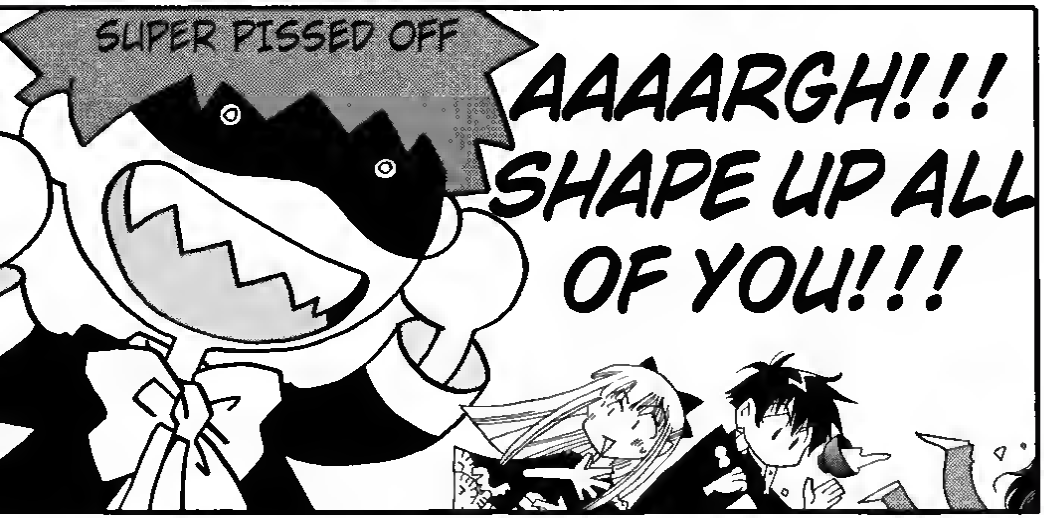
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS, MASUMI-CHAN!!!
HAHAHAHA, AWWW YEAHH, DAIDOUJI'S KID, SHOW MORE LEG~
CHEERS

WOBBLE
WOBBLE
WHAHAHA... LOKI-KUN, WHERE'DYA GOOOO??

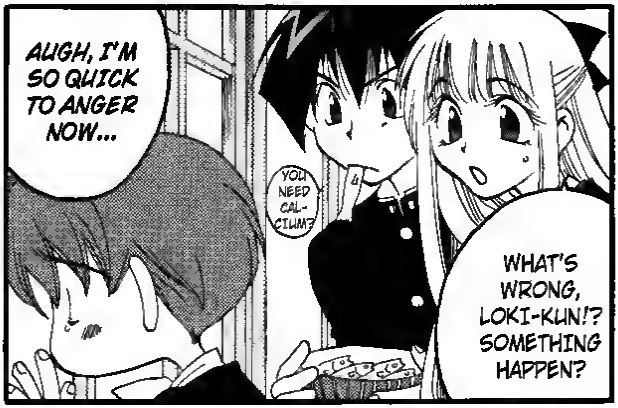

SHF
MAYURA, JUST WAIT A MOMENT, THE SAKE WILL BE HERE SHORT-
LY!?

AW'W
YAYYYY
DUMB FAMILY
THEY JUST HAD ONE GLASS OF SAKE A PIECE, AND THEY'RE THIS DRUNK. WHAT A FUN FAMILY.
OHH YE AHH


SNAP!
AW YEAH!! FOOD! FOOD!
HEY THERE, YOU'RE A CUTIE, AREN'T YOU? HOW'S ABOUT YOU AND I GO OUT SOMETIME?
I-YOU'RE BOTHERING ME, LET GO!
AHHH~
THE BRIDE IS SO INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL~~
OOH AHH!
OOOHH, THIS BOILED ONE IS QUITE TASTY. I SHALL TAKE A MEMO ON IT!
OOH
SO STRING BEAN AND TARO


SUPER PISSED OFF
AAAARGH!!! SHAPE UP ALL OF YOU!!!

IF THE WRITER OF THE LETTER WAS SERIOUS, THEY'LL ACT SOON.
DUH DUN


AUGH, I'M SO QUICK TO ANGER NOW...
YOU NEED CALCIUM?
WHAT'S WRONG, LOKI-KUN!? SOMETHING HAPPEN?

SOON? WHEN IS SOON!?
HEY, WHERE'D MY WOODEN SWORD GO?
STARTING NOW.

WHAT DO WE DO? IF WE DON'T SET UP A COUNTER-PLAN, SOMETHING BAD COULD HAPPEN TO AYANA...
TRUE... IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, IT'LL BE TERRIBLE. SO....

I THOUGHT WE COULD CREATE A FAKE TO TAKE HER PLACE.
A FAKE BRIDE.

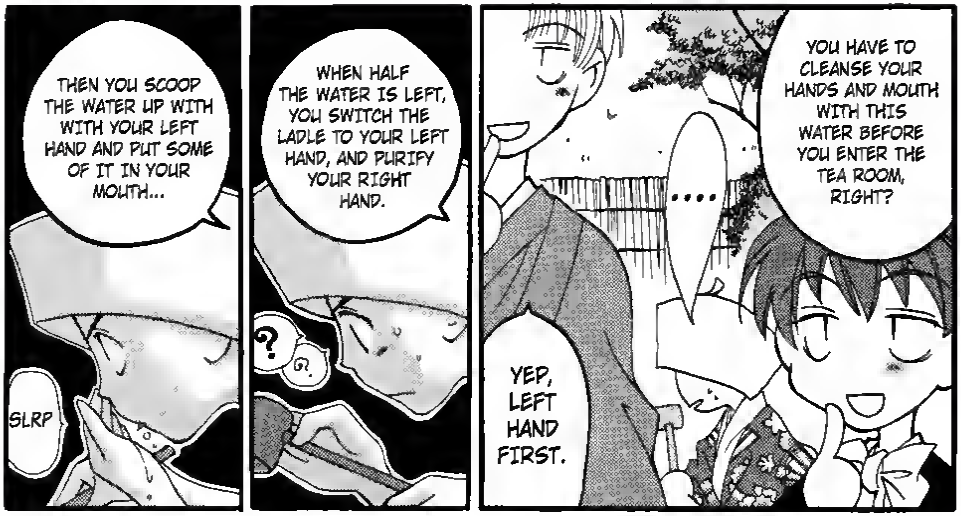
WHAT DO YOU- NOT ME!?
HOWEVER, IN THE BRIDE'S FIRST CHANGE OF CLOTHES, HE LOOKS GORGEOUS~
JUST IN CASE SOMETHING VIOLENT HAPPENS, YOU KNOW?
PLUS, YOU AND AYANA-SAN ARE ABOUT THE SAME HEIGHT, SO IF YOU JUST KEEP THE BRIDE'S HOOD DOWN, YOU'LL BE FINE!
IN WAITING ROOM
TEA CEREMONY CHANGING ROOM
I WISH... I COULD WEAR IT...
I'M JEALOUS, NARUGAMI-KUN!!

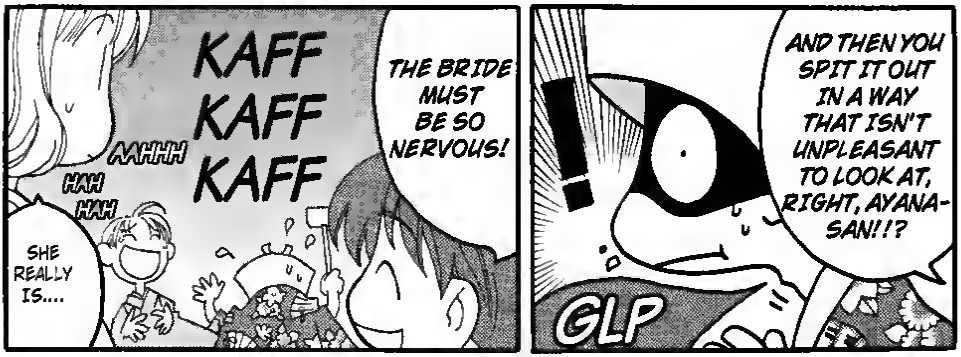
SO, ANYONE HOLDING IT OTHER THAN ME IS WEIRD

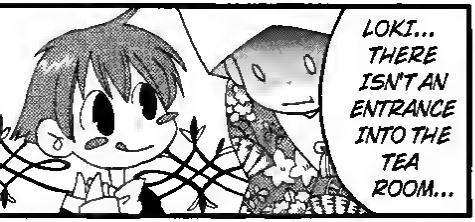
OH, ARE YOU?
AH, CAN YOU ADD JUST ONE MORE, PLEASE? I'M ALSO GOING TO BE PARTICIPATING!
AH, YES, I'M JUST ABOUT TO, MISAKI-SAN!
YUKINO-CHAN, HAVE YOU BROUGHT OUT THE SNACKS FOR THE CEREMONY?
AH, SUCH AN EASILY FRAZZLED GIRL...
I HOPE THAT THE CONTENTS ARE NOT SCATTERED AROUND...
PARDON ME, COULD YOU CARRY THIS FOR ME!?
OH MY, WELL THEN I WILL GO SET ANOTHER PLACE...
PATTER PATTER
PRESENTATION IS VERY IMPORTANT IN THE TEA CEREMONY.
TMP
TMP
GOOD, THEY LOOK JUST FINE.

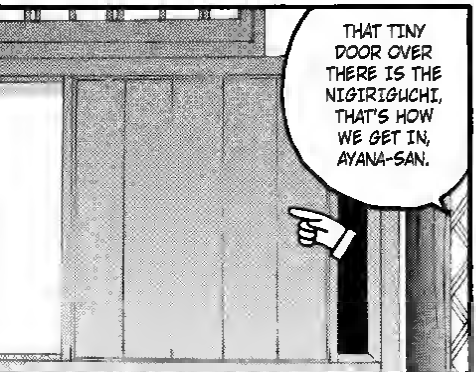
HEY, DETECTIVE, THE TEA CEREMONY'S STARTING.
AND DON'T RUN!
OK!
I HAVE IT NOW!
WELL THEN, PUT IT ON TOP HERE.
TO THE TEA CEREMONY!
TA DAH!
NARU-KAMI-KUN, YOU READY?
....
PAP!
I WILL KILL YOU...
NARU-KAMI-KUN YOU'RE SO PRETTY ♡

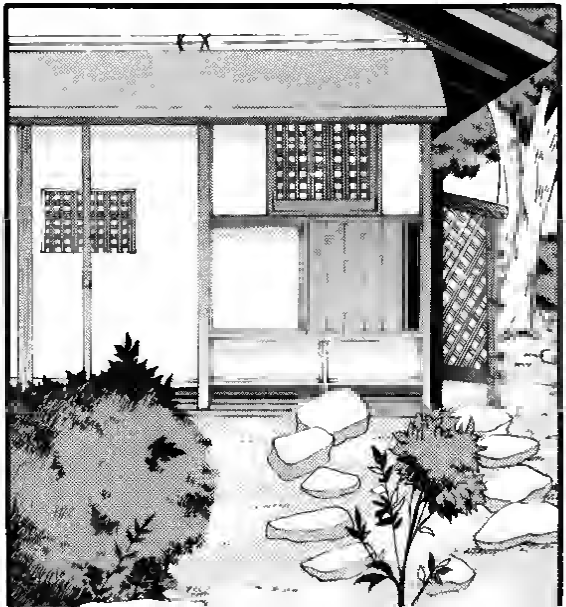
HEY, LOKI.... WHO'S THAT GIRL...?
WHISPER
WHISPER
HEY GIRL, YOU GOT A BOYFRIEND?
USUALLY, THE ROLE IS CHOSEN FROM ONE OF THE GUESTS, BUT...
NEITHER KOU-CHAN NOR I ARE REALLY FIT FOR THAT ROLE...
SHE'S THE TEA MASTER.
SHE KEEPS CONTACT WITH THE HEAD OF THE CEREMONY AND PICKS EVERYTHING UP AFTER US.
?
THIS IS THE TSUKUBAI, AYANA, IT'S A BASIN FOR RITUAL CLEANSING.
JUST BOW SILENTLY!
SMILE
DON'T WORRY, AYANA!


THEN YOU SCOOP THE WATER UP WITH WITH YOUR LEFT HAND AND PUT SOME OF IT IN YOUR MOUTH...
SLRP
WHEN HALF THE WATER IS LEFT, YOU SWITCH THE LADLE TO YOUR LEFT HAND, AND PURIFY YOUR RIGHT HAND.
?
G?
YOU HAVE TO CLEANSE YOUR HANDS AND MOUTH WITH THIS WATER BEFORE YOU ENTER THE TEA ROOM, RIGHT?
....
YEP, LEFT HAND FIRST.


KAFF KAFF KAFF
AAHHH
HAH HAH
SHE REALLY IS....
THE BRIDE MUST BE SO NERVOUS!
AND THEN YOU SPIT IT OUT IN A WAY THAT ISN'T UNPLEASANT TO LOOK AT, RIGHT, AYANA-SAN!!?
GLP

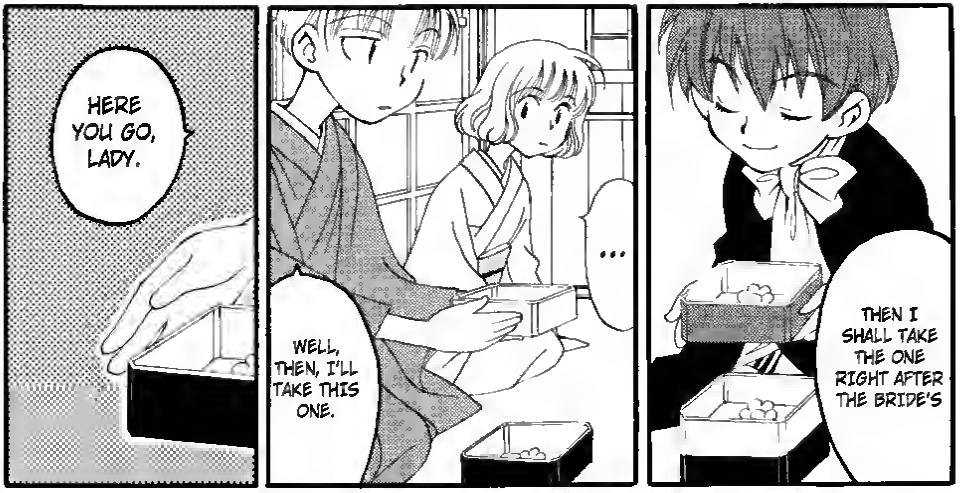

LOKI... THERE ISN'T AN ENTRANCE INTO THE TEA ROOM...

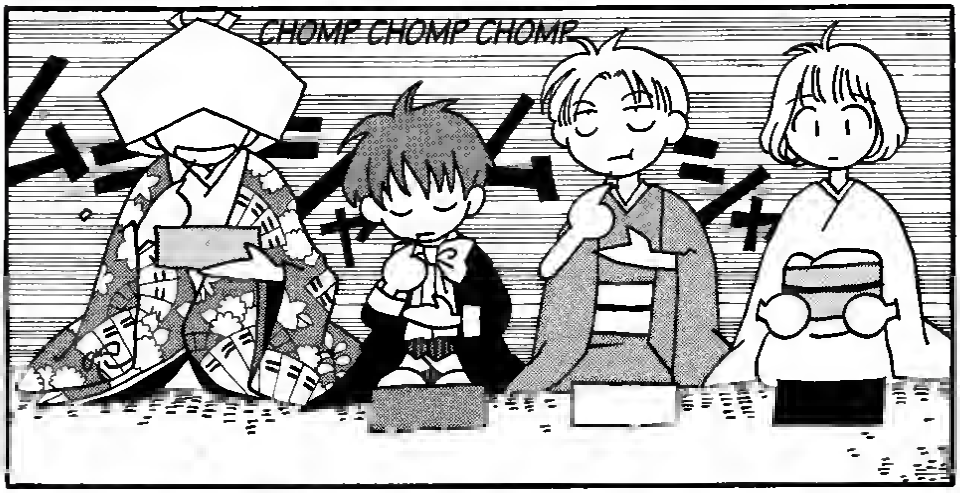

THAT TINY DOOR OVER THERE IS THE NIGIRIGUCHI, THAT'S HOW WE GET IN, AYANA-SAN.



VEL COME
MAN WHEN I GET IN THERE, I REALLY LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THE ART OBJECTS IN THE ALCOVE
AND ENJOYING THE SIGHT OF THE SEASONAL FLOWERS..
AND LOOKING AT THE TEAPOT, TOO!
AS EXPECTED
DONK
OW...
OH GOSH, AYANA-SAN YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE JOKES TO COVER YOUR SHY-NESS... NOT AT A TIME LIKE THIS!
TH-THAT TINY LITTLE DOO.... R-REALLY!? OH MY!
HELL HAS COME
TO MY HEAD

BEFORE THE DARK MATCHA, WE HAVE A SET OF SPECIAL SNACKS.
IS THAT FOOD OR SOMETHIN', LOKI?
FWSH
WOOHOO! LEMME AT EM!
TAP
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! AYANA IS ANXIOUS, SO BENDING THE FORMAL RULES A LITTLE BIT IS NO PROBLEM AT ALL!
TEA CEREMONY!!
AH...
THAT'S NOT THE CORRECT ORDER...


HERE YOU GO, LADY.
WELL, THEN, I'LL TAKE THIS ONE.
...
THEN I SHALL TAKE THE ONE RIGHT AFTER THE BRIDE'S


CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP

WHAT'S THE MATTER, MISAKI? WE CAN'T SERVE THE MATCHA UNTIL EVERYONE HAS FINISHED EATING.

HEH
....I'M NOT FEELING VERY WELL.
HUH? HEY, MISAKI!?
OH MYYY, GETTING UP FROM ONE'S SEAT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TEA ROOM, WHAT A THING TO DO! I'LL HAVE TO TAKE A LOOK!
IS IT HER, LOKI !?
FOOSH
HEY LET ME GO!
WAIT! WHAT'S GOING ON!! EXPLAIN IT TO MEEE!!

YOU PUT SOMETHING IN THE TEA CAKE, DIDN'T YOU?
THE ONE THAT WAS IN THE BOX THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SERVED FIRST.
THAT'S WHY YOU COULDN'T EAT IT, ISN'T IT?
WH... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING I DID....?
YOU PLOTTED TO GIVE IT TO THE BRIDE.
BUT... HATSUNE WAS THE ONE WHO PREPARED THE SNACKS.
AND YUKINO CARRIED THE BOXES IN... I DIDN-
IT MUST HAVE BEEN WHEN HATSUNE WAS IN THE TEA ROOM MAKING PREPARATIONS. YOU WENT INTO THE KITCHEN AND DID YOUR OWN...

YOU PUT SOMETHING IN THE TEA CAKE IN THE BLACK BOX. THEN WHEN YUKINO CAME, CARRYING THE BOXES, YOU TOOK THEM FROM HER AND PUT THAT ONE ON THE BOTTOM.
HOWEVER THE BRIDE IGNORED THE PROPER PROTOCOLS, AND THE BOX IN QUESTION ENDED UP IN FRONT OF YOU.
TAP TA
YOU WERE THE FIRST IN LINE OF SUCCESSION FOR THE KANEYASU FAMILY, AND YOU COULDN'T LET AYANA-SAN JOIN THE FAMILY AT ANY COST...
SO YOU WANTED TO DO SOMETHING TO AYANA BEFORE SHE FINISHED THE ALL-IMPORTANT MATCHA-DRINKING PART OF THE CEREMONY.
THE ETIQUETTE OF THE TEA CEREMONY IS THAT THE GUEST OF HONOR TAKES THEIR BOX FROM THE BOTTOM, AND THE REST OF THE PARTY FOLLOWS SUIT.

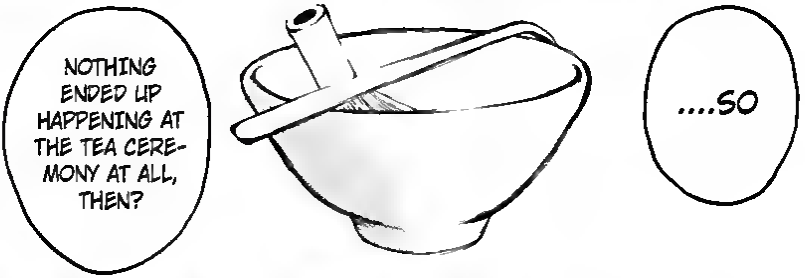
I HAD THOUGHT... FOR SO LONG... THAT I WOULD BE THE ONE TO SUCCEED TO THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY... THEN THAT WOMAN...
AHHH. THAT'S NO GOOD, MISAKI-SAN. TO DO THE TEA CEREMONY PERFECTLY, YOU CAN'T BE DELUDED BY YOUR WORLDLY DESIRES...
THE FIRST PERSON TO PERFORM THE TEA CEREMONY WAS A ZEN MONK BY THE NAME OF EIZAI.
THERE IS AN AMAZINGLY STRONG BOND BETWEEN THE CONCEPT OF ZEN AND TEA.

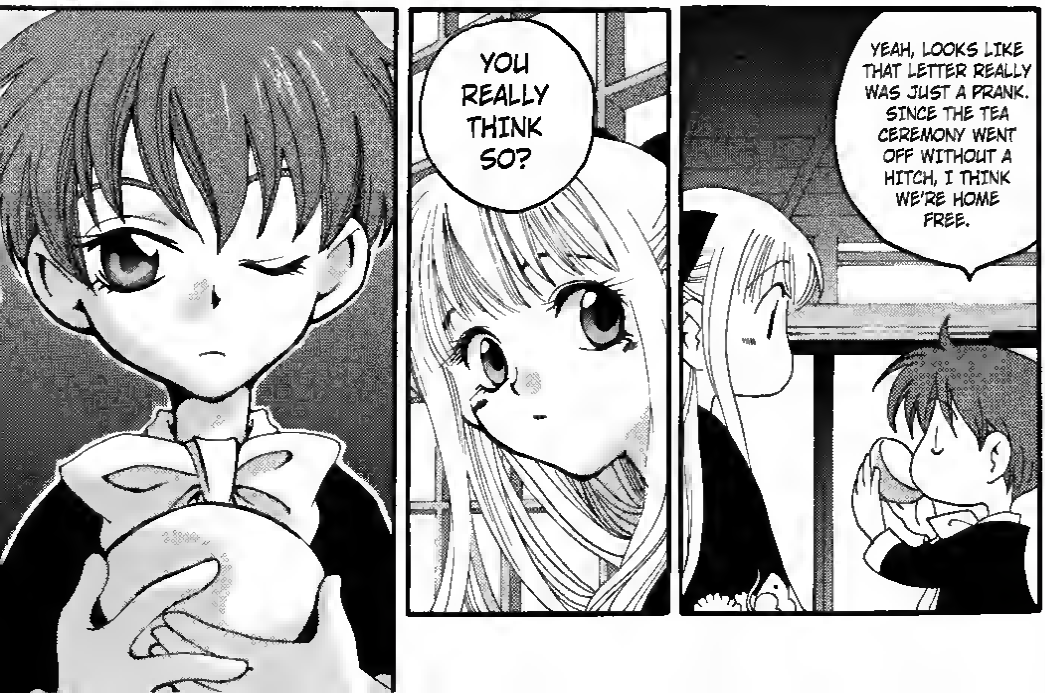
HERE AND NOW I WILL CUT YOU FREE OF THAT MISLED WORLDY DESIRE!
WHACK!!
AH... I.... DID I...
HEY, LOKI! IS THAT THE ONE...?

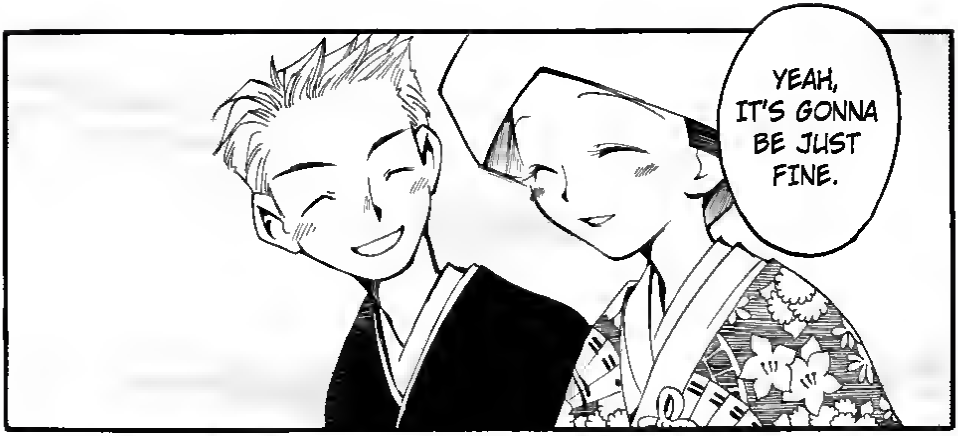
MMMM... MISAKI-SAN IS BETTER NOW...
HOW'D YOU GET INTO THE BRIDE'S PLACE NARUKAMI!? LET'S START OVER FROM THE BEGINNING!

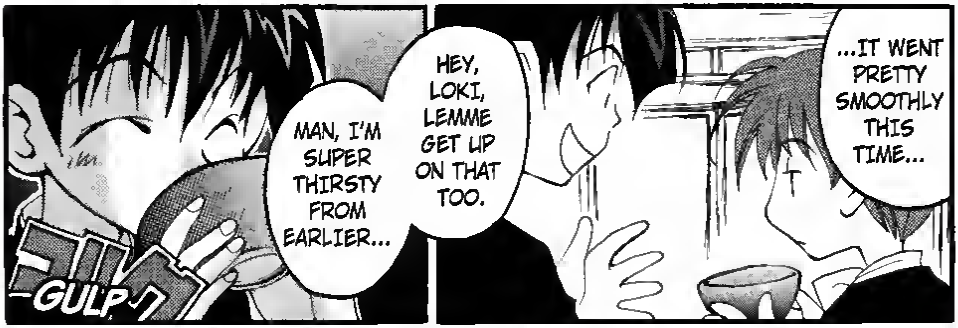
HUH!!

HEY, HOW'S MY DETECTIVE'S ASSISTANT IMPRESSION, EH PRETTY LADY?
HEH
LOOK AT ALL THESE RECIPES ♡
AH HA HA..
AHHH, I ALSO THINK THAT A WEDDING DRESS WOULD BE NICE...
PAPA WAKE UP!!
GOTTA GO BACK TO WORK!
SHNORRR


NOTHING ENDED UP HAPPENING AT THE TEA CEREMONY AT ALL, THEN?
....SO


YOU REALLY THINK SO?
YEAH, LOOKS LIKE THAT LETTER REALLY WAS JUST A PRANK. SINCE THE TEA CEREMONY WENT OFF WITHOUT A HITCH, I THINK WE'RE HOME FREE.


YEAH, IT'S GONNA BE JUST FINE.


MAN, I'M SUPER THIRSTY FROM EARLIER...
GULP
HEY, LOKI, LEMME GET UP ON THAT TOO.
...IT WENT PRETTY SMOOTHLY THIS TIME...

SO BITTER!

WAIT, THERE WAS SOMETHING INSIDE THAT TEA CAKE ALL ALONG!?

WHAT IF I'D ACTUALLY EATEN IT!!
MAYBE HE REALLY IS A DANGEROUS GUY!?
YOU DIDN'T SAY WORD ONE ABOUT THAT...

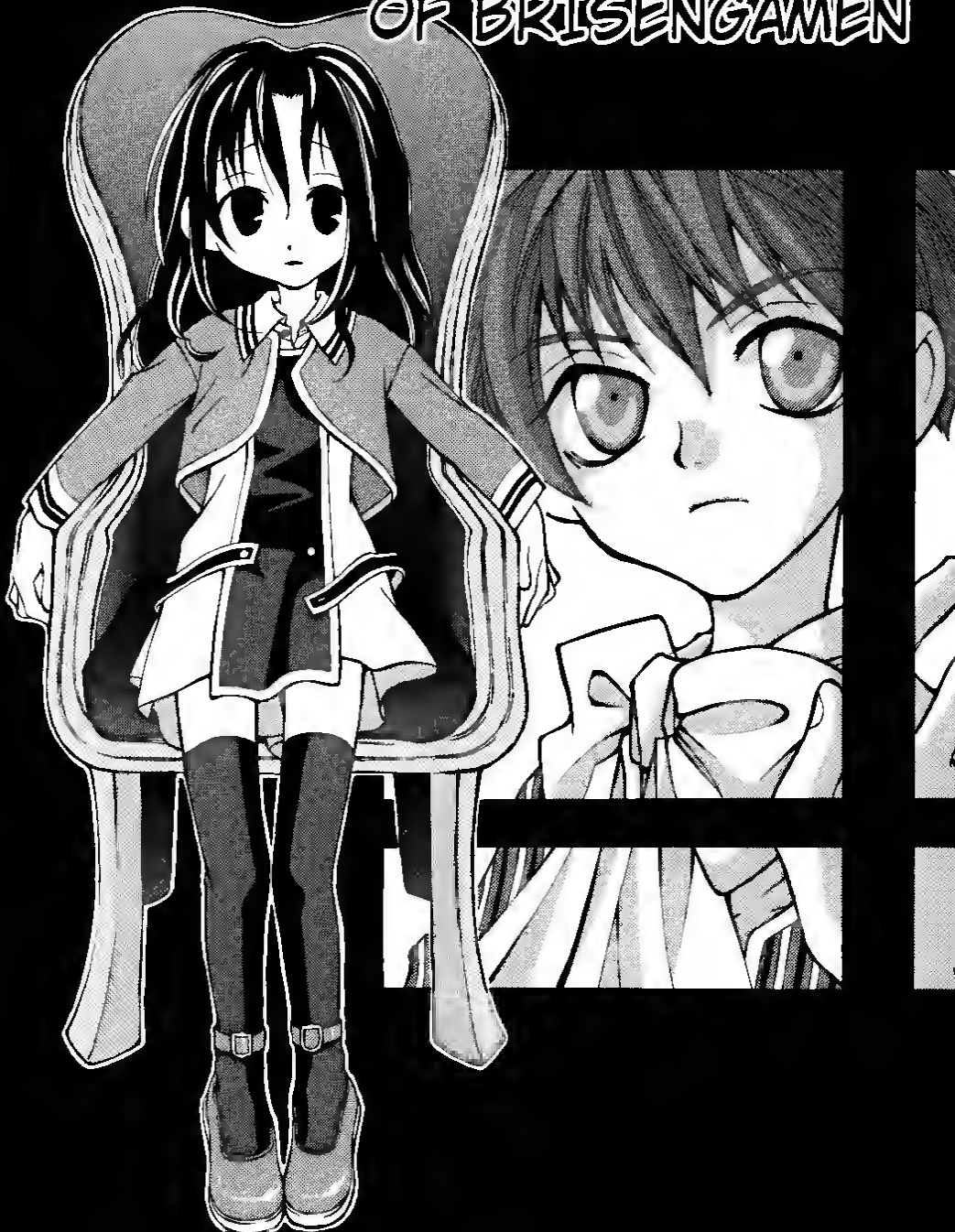
...

I KNEW YOU'D SCREW UP THE RULES FOR THE TEA CEREMONY SO I KEPT MY MOUTH SHUT.
WELL, I KNEW THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING IN THE CAKE IN THE BLACK BOX.
I'M SO CRAZY FOR THIS SAUCE!

YEAH, BUT YOU DIDN'T.
THE ENDS DON'T JUSTIFY THE MEANS!!

COME ON, NARUKAMI-KUN. YOU THINK I'D MAKE SUCH A HUGE SCREW-UP?
WELL, YOU'RE PRETTY BRIGHT, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.
SO UN-FAIR.
HMMM... I'M STARTING TO SEE THE MEANING IN KILLING HIM MORE AND MORE...
H- HEY, IF YOU'D ALREADY FIGURED THE WHOLE THING OUT, THEN EVEN IF I HADN'T WORN THE BRIDE'S OUTFIT...
HEY THERE, LOKI-KUN~
I GOT THE PICTURES FROM THAT WEDDING!
HAHAHA, IT REALLY LOOKED GOOD ON YOU, NARUKAMI-KUN!
WHAT IS UP WITH YOU!? YOU KNEW AND YOU STILL MADE ME DO IT!!
AUUUGH PUT IT AWAY!!!
HEH HEH HEH
...YEAH WELL, YOU MADE SHICHI-GO-SAN LOOK GOOD, RIGHT KIDDO?
I HAD THAT ONE BLOWN UP HUGE~ ♡

NIGHT 14
THE NIGHTMARE OF BRISENGAMEN

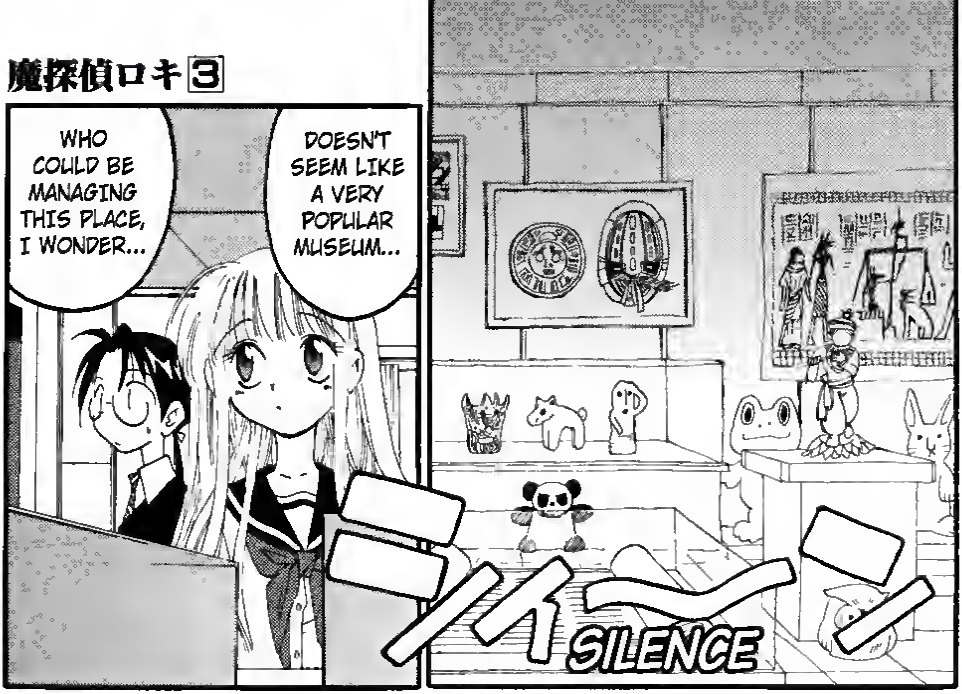


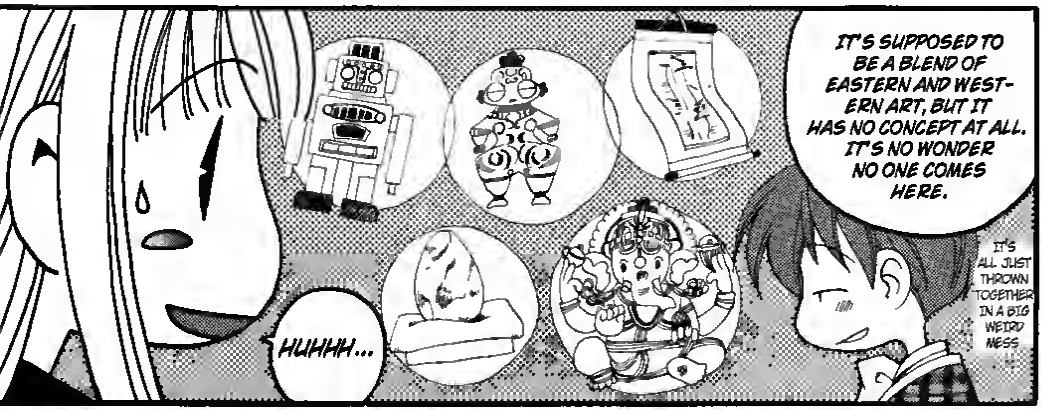
WHAT DOES THOR THINK HE'S DOING DOWN THERE...
IT WAS ALL JUST AS I PREDICTED THOUGH...
HE ENDED UP WILLING HIMSELF TO FORGET HIS TRUE PURPOSE, DIDN'T HE? HEH HEH HEH.

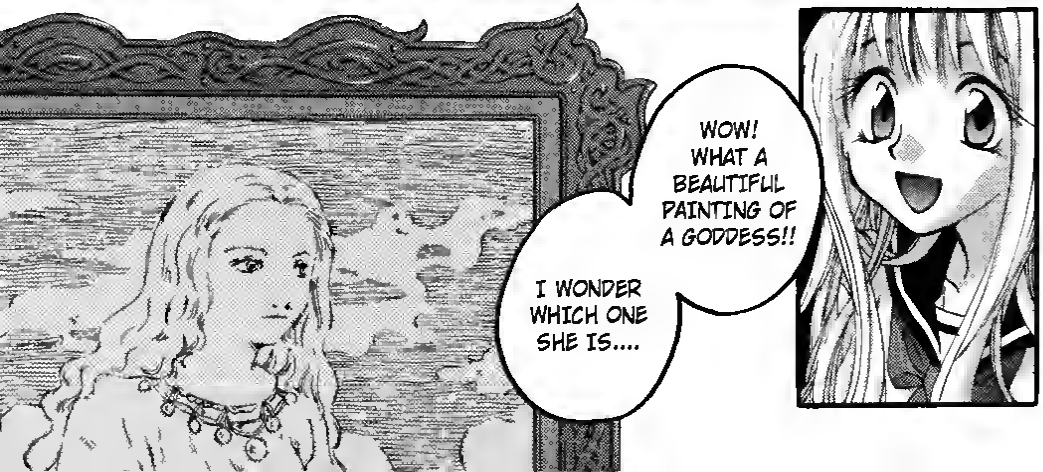
HOW ABSURD! I SUPPOSE IT'LL HAVE TO BE ME WHO BRINGS HIM DOWN, THEN.
THE ONE WHO WILL BRING ABOUT THE DESTRUCTION OF THE GODS!!

YES...
THAT'S ALSO WHY FREYA WAS REBORN INTO THIS WORLD, ISN'T IT... HEH HEH HEH.
...LOKI-SAMA...
BLINK

THIS IS THE MUSEUM YOU SAW IN YOUR DREAM, REIYA?
WAS IT A PRO-PHETIC DREAM?
YES, IT WAS INDEED...
I GOT THE SENSE THAT SOME-THING WILL HAPPEN HERE...
I FEEL AS IF I'M BEING CALLED HERE...
....

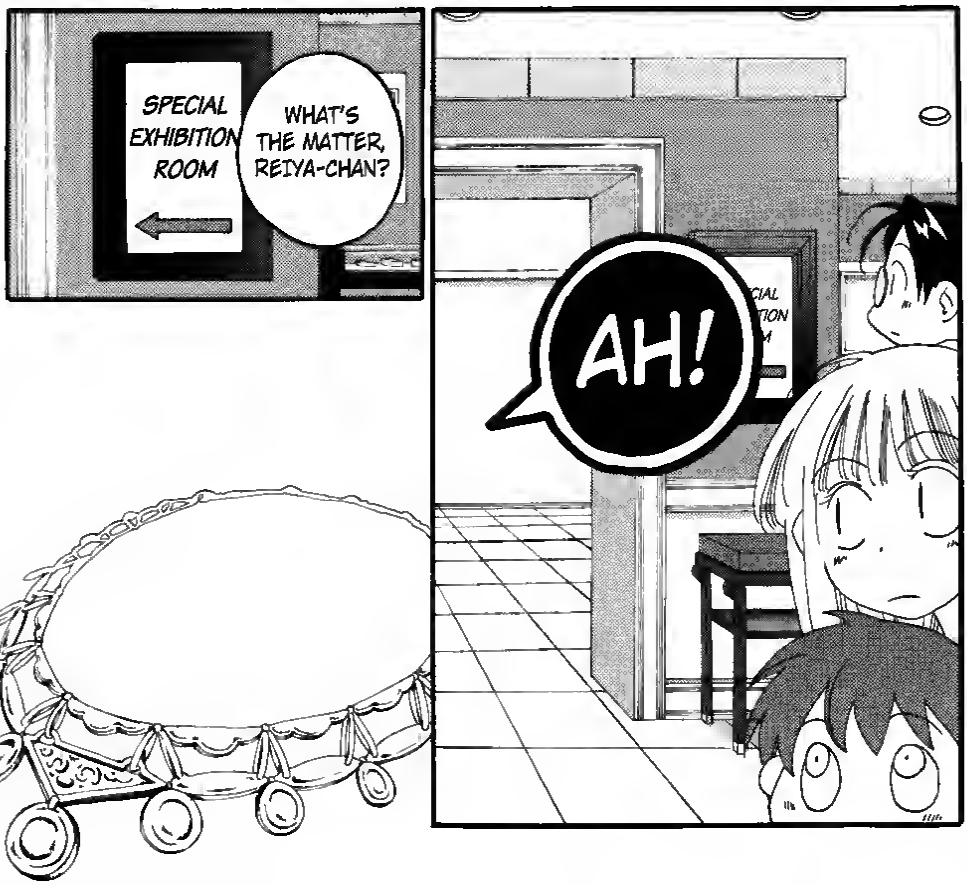

WHO COULD BE MANAGING THIS PLACE, I WONDER...
DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A VERY POPULAR MUSEUM...
SILENCE


IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A BLEND OF EASTERN AND WESTERN ART, BUT IT HAS NO CONCEPT AT ALL. IT'S NO WONDER NO ONE COMES HERE.
IT'S ALL JUST THROWN TOGETHER IN A BIG WEIRD MESS
HUHHH...


WOW! WHAT A BEAUTIFUL PAINTING OF A GODDESS!!
I WONDER WHICH ONE SHE IS....

THAT'S THE NORSE VIKING GODDESS, FREYA.
GODDESS OF BEAUTY, FERTILITY, AND....
WELL, FREYA IS THE MOTHER GODDESS...
L-LOKI-KUN... WHAT'S THE MATTER?
EVEN THOUGH YOU ACT LIKE YOU'RE SO GROWN UP, YOU REALLY ARE A CHILD AFTER ALL.
YOU MISS YOUR MAMA, DON'T YOU?
GWEH!! WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
OH I SEE! YOU'RE CAPTIVATED BY THE MOTHERLY CHARMS OF THE GODDESS.
PAF
SQUEEZE
IT'S OKAY, YOU'VE GOT ME HERE TO DOTE ON YOUUU!

....
AAAAA DON'T TOUCH ME THERE!
THEN DON'T BE SHY!
WHACK
AAAAAAA
MAYBE... IT'S A BIT LIKE THAT...
ドキドキ
BADUMP BADUMP
I'M NOT A KID, THOUGH.


SPECIAL EXHIBITION ROOM
WHAT'S THE MATTER, REIYA-CHAN?
AH!

OH... OH NO...
REIYA-CHAN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU'VE GONE SO PALE!!

TH-THIS NECK-LACE...
LOKI-SAMA... WHAT IS THIS NECK-LACE?
IT'S THE NECKLACE KNOWN AS BRISINGAMEN, YAMINO-KUN.

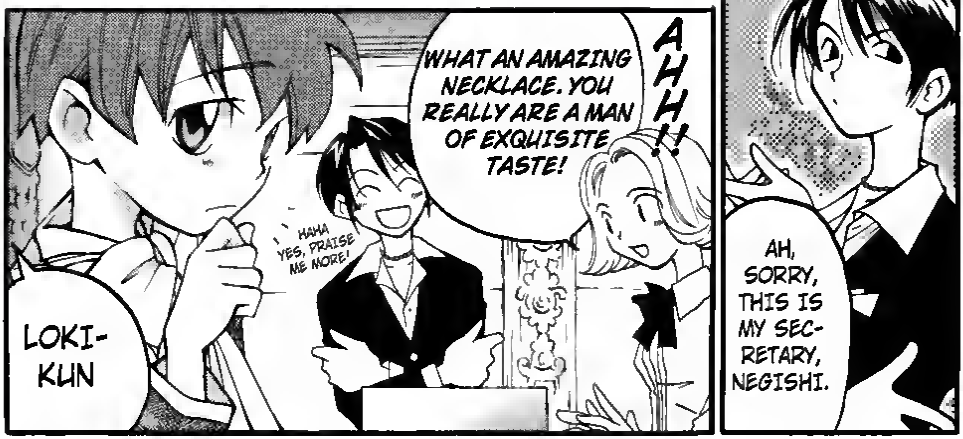
YES... IT COULD BE CALLED FREYA'S EMBLEMATIC ACCESSORY.
THIS IS SURELY WHAT HAS CALLED REIYA HERE...
REACH

WHAA!? YOU MEAN THE NECKLACE THAT FREYA WORE AT ALL TIMES AND NEVER TOOK OFF? YOU MEAN *THAT* BRISINGAMEN!?
YES, THANK YOU FOR THE EXPLA-NATION!
PROFESSOR YAMINO

....WHO THE HECK IS THIS?
ROSES!!
OH COME NOW, YOU
IT'S AGAINST THE RULES TO TOUCH THE EXHIBITS, BABY~!
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I'M THE CURATOR OF THIS MUSEUM.
I AM SUZUME TENZOKU, IF YOU PLEASE.
HAHAHA
ANYONE WHO GOT GRABBED BY THIS STUFF WOULD BE STRUGGLING TO GET AWAY!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK? IS THERE ANYTHING IN MY INCREDIBLY ARTISTIC COLLECTION THAT GRABS YOU AND JUST WON'T LET GO, MY ENERGETIC LITTLE BABY?
HAHAHA
HAHA
HAHA
HAHA

THIS? HMMMMMM.... WHERE WAS THAT AGAIN....
BY THE WAY MR. CURATOR, WHERE DID YOU GET AHOLD OF THIS NECKLACE?
WAH
SO SAUCY!
FWAP
STEALING IS A CRIME, BABY!
WELL YOU SEE, I'M ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST LIVING COLLECTORS, SO I JUST END UP GATHERING ALL THIS STUFF TOGETHER.
I FLIT FROM DARK PLACE TO DARK PLACE, MASTERING THESE BEAUTIFUL PIECES OF ART!
IN A WORD, YOU BUY THEM ON THE BLACK MARKET, OR IN ILLICIT UNDERGROUND AUCTIONS...
GRIP
OH NO, MY GOOD SHIROMIYA-SAMA, IT IS YOU WHO ARE THE WORST.
MY GOODNESS YOU ARE BAD, MASTER KOKUYA!
WHEN YOU'RE A SNAKE YOURSELF, A SNAKE IN THE GRASS IS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
THAT EXPLAINS NOTHING.
HEE HEE HEE
MY GORGEOUS SECURITY SYSTEM IS ON THE ALERT FOR ANY POSSIBLE BREAK-INS.
YOU'RE THAT INTERESTED IN IT, THEN? WELL EVEN IF YOU WANT TO TAKE IT, THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN.

TA-DAH!
HEH
FIRSTLY, MY ELITE, HAND SELECTED FORCE OF SECURITY GUARDS!!
AND AT NIGHT, I HAVE A GORGEOUS INFRARED SENSOR SYSTEM ACTIVATED!!
AND MORE ROSES...
HAND-PICKED THEY MAY BE, BUT THEY LOOK LIKE HE JUST PICKED HIS FRIENDS...
CURATOR, KOTOBUKI-SAN, THE APPRAISOR HAS ARRIVED.
IN THIS SPECIAL EXHIBITION ROOM, THE INFRARED LASERS COVER THE ENTIRE ROOM. YOU SEE.
ANY SUSPICIOUS INVADERS WILL BE REPELLED IMMEDIATELY.


AH, SORRY, THIS IS MY SEC-RETARY, NEGISHI.
AHH!!
WHAT AN AMAZING NECKLACE. YOU REALLY ARE A MAN OF EXQUISITE TASTE!
HAHA YES, PRAISE ME MORE!
LOKI-KUN

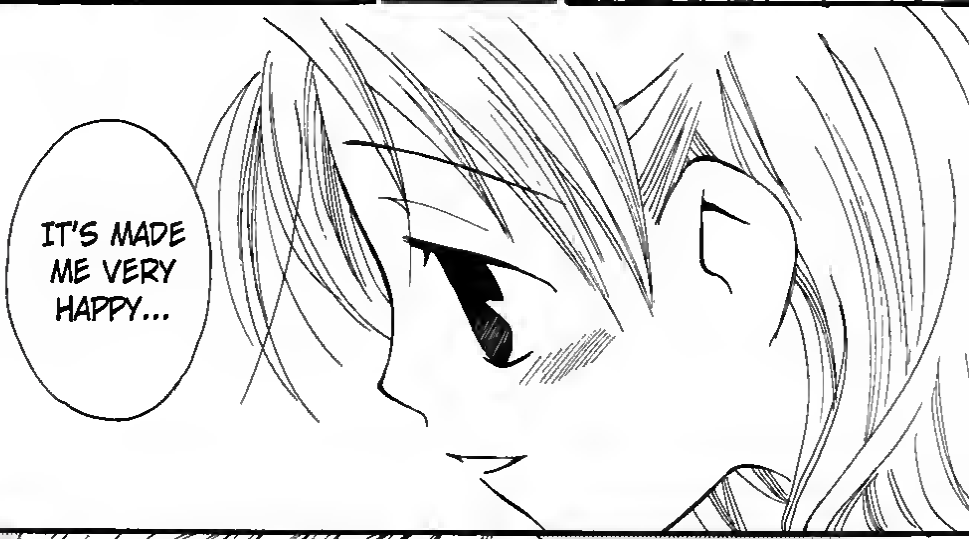
REIYA-CHAN SEEMS TO BE REALLY SICK! WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
I'M....FINE... LOKI-SAMA... DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, PLEASE.
WELL, MAYURA.
CAN YOU AND YAMINO-KUN PLEASE INSPECT THIS ROOM FOR ME?
YES SIR!

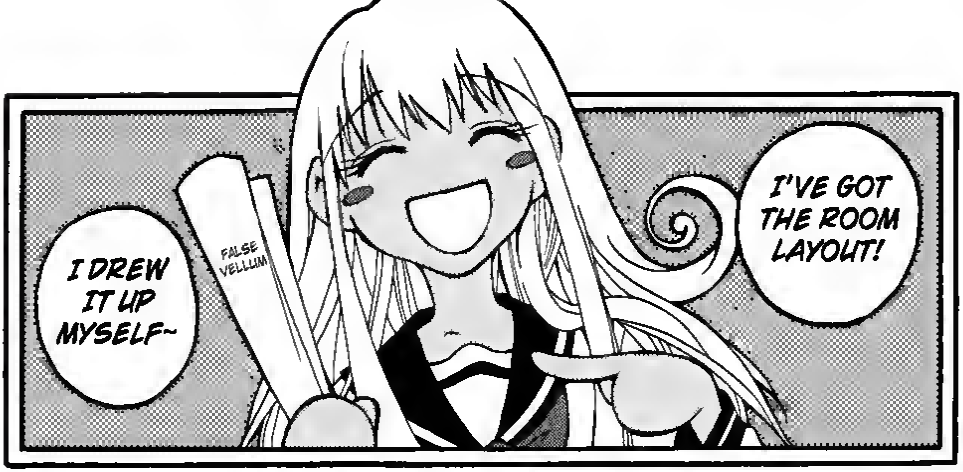
REIYA, WILL YOU COME OUTSIDE WITH ME?

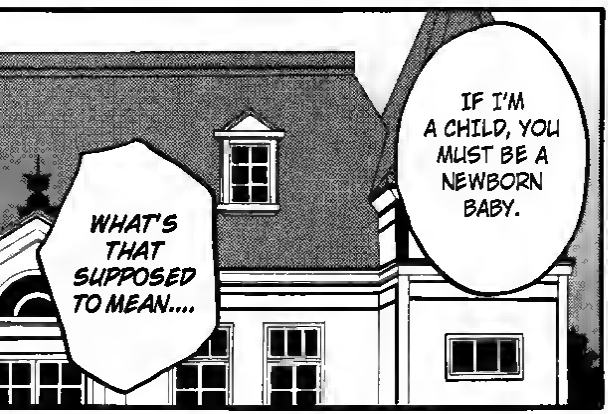
WHY HAS THE BRISING NECKLACE APPEARED NOW, OF ALL TIMES...
....LOKI-SAMA.
HM?
I'M AFRAID.

...WHEN I LOOK AT THAT NECKLACE...
I FEEL LIKE I'M BECOMING ANOTHER PERSON...

...LOKI-SAMA... I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU...
FOR COMING HERE WITH ME TODAY...
OKAY.
REIYA, YOU'RE YOU, AREN'T YOU? I'M SURE YOU'RE JUST IMAGINING IT.
SMILE

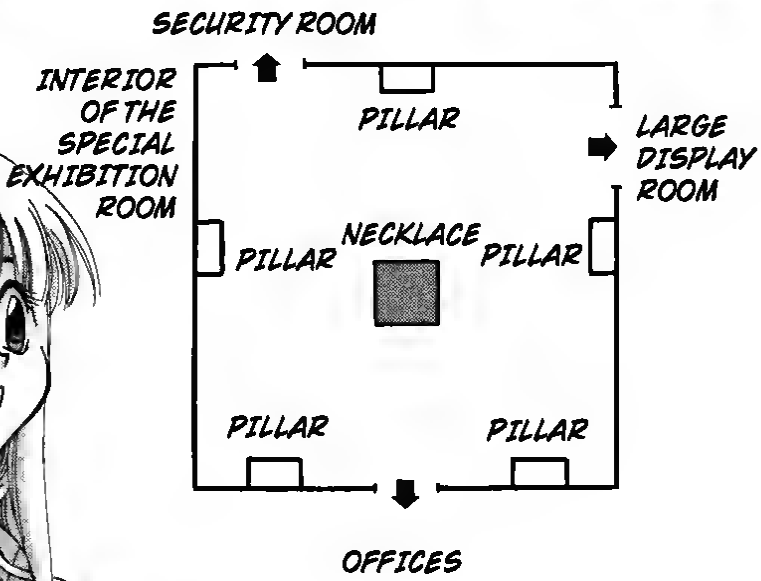

IT'S MADE ME VERY HAPPY...


I'VE GOT THE ROOM LAYOUT!
FALSE VELLUM
I DREW IT UP MYSELF~


IF I'M A CHILD, YOU MUST BE A NEWBORN BABY.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN....

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HAVING FUN, MAYUIRA
LIKE ALWAYS WHEN THERE'S A CASE
WHAAAAT
YOU THINK SO?

IF YOU GO THROUGH THE LARGE DISPLAY ROOM, YOU COME TO THE CURATOR'S APARTMENTS.

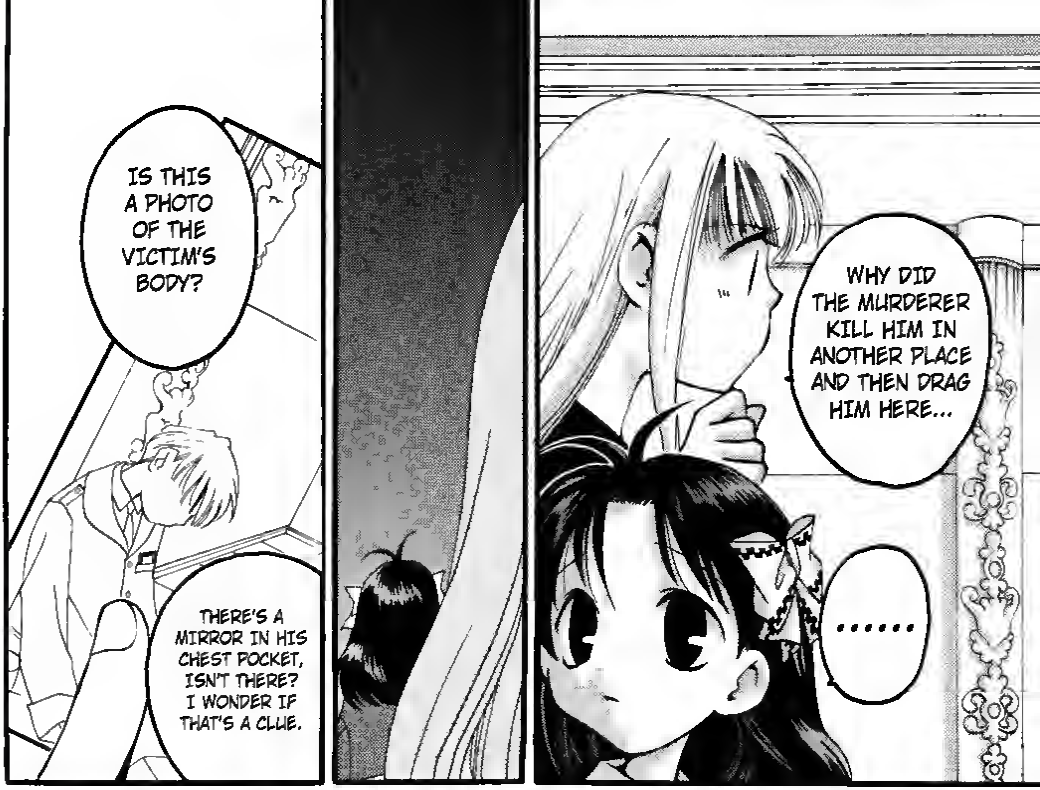

SECURITY ROOM
INTERIOR OF THE SPECIAL EXHIBITION ROOM
PILLAR
LARGE DISPLAY ROOM
NECKLACE
PILLAR
PILLAR
PILLAR
PILLAR
OFFICES

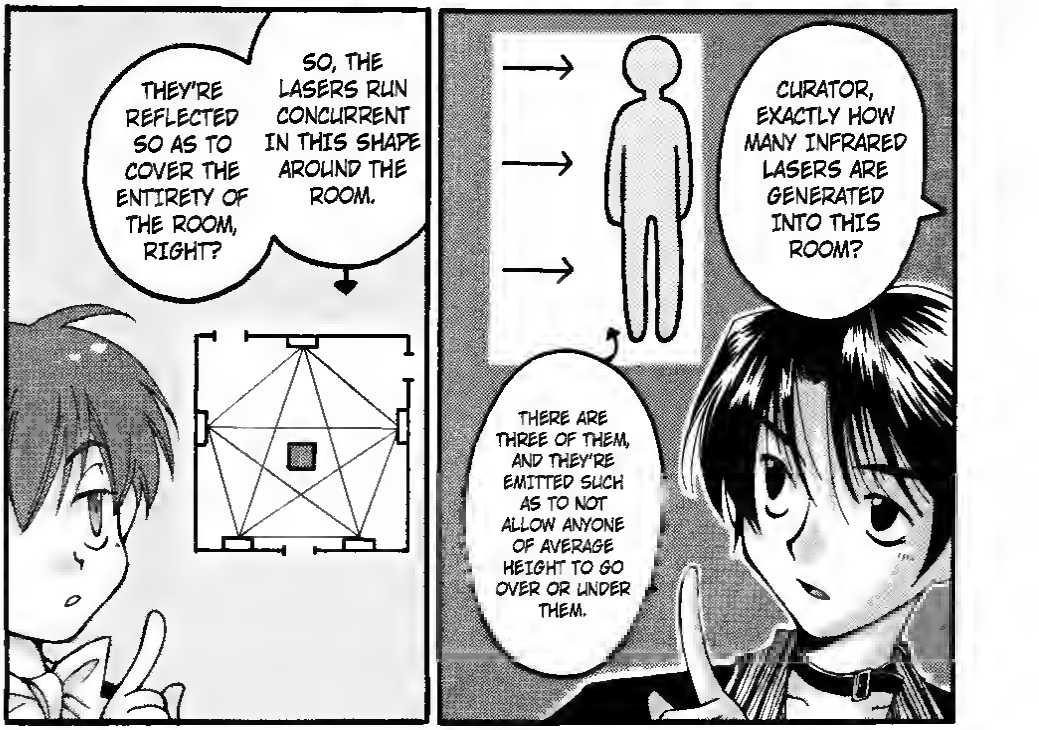
HEY, HEY... YOU THINK SOMETHING'S GONNA HAPPEN?
HMM HMMM HMMMM
GOOD EVENI-
FWSH
HUH?
ALL RIGHT, ONE LAST PATROL.
AFTER THAT, I JUST HAVE TO SET THE SECURITY SYSTEM... WHAT AN EASY JOB! ♡
GHH

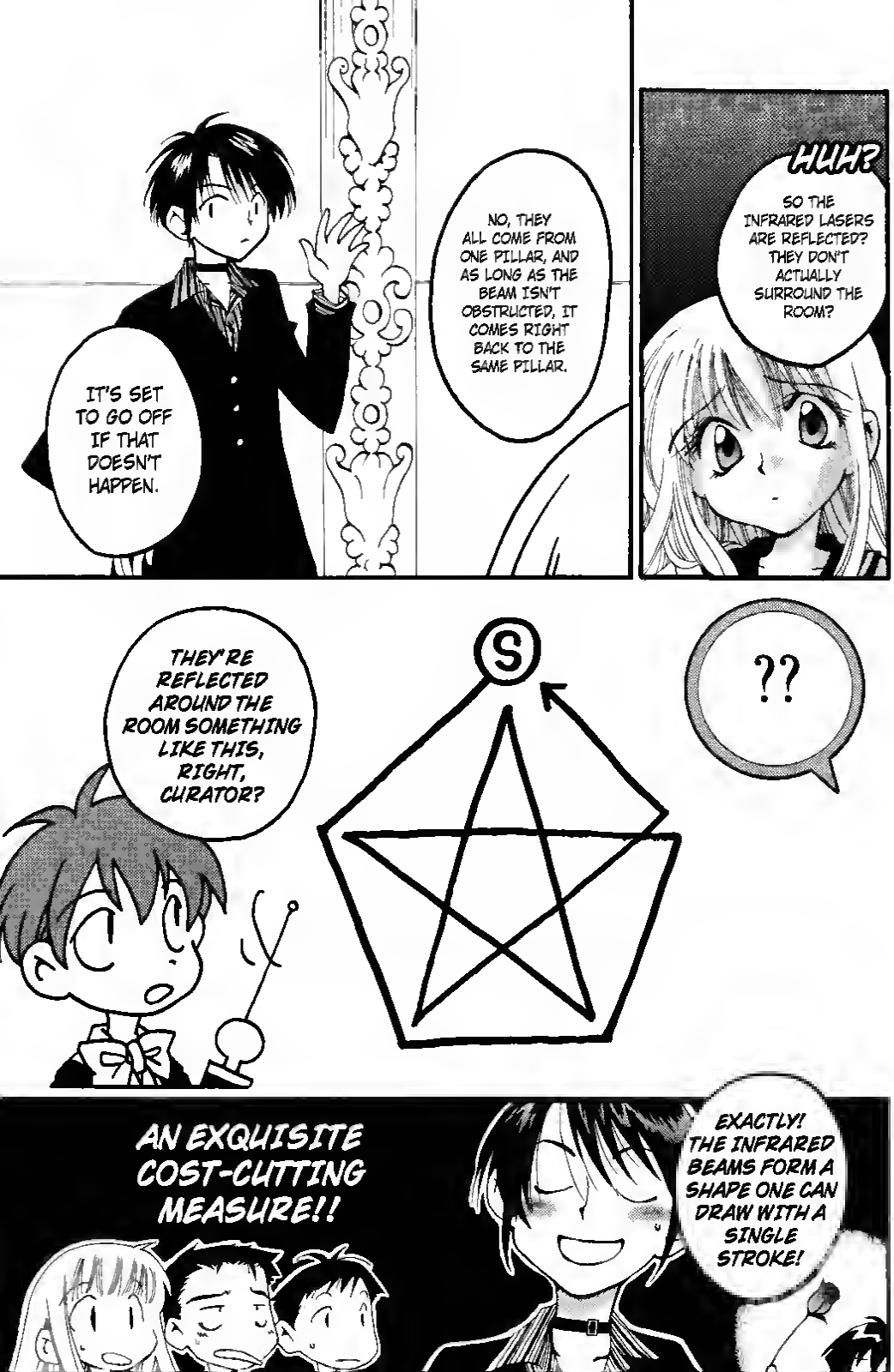
THE BRISIN-GAMEN!?
WELL WAKE UP AND GET READY, WE'RE GONNA GO SEE IT BEFORE I HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL!!
IT'S TOO EARLY IN THE MORNING FOR YOU TO BE THAT LOUD, NARUKAMI-KUN.
IRON PART-TIMER RULE 8: YOU MAY NOT EMBEZZLE THE MERCHANDISE.
HEY DON'T JUST TAKE THAT!!
LEMME SEE THAT PAPER.
YOU PAIN!
GOOD MORNING NEWS
NARUKAMI-KUN... THAT NECKLACE HAS BEEN STOLEN.

SECURITY ROOM
DISPLAYING A DEAD BODY IN AN ART MUSEUM... THAT'S IN PRETTY BAD TASTE.
I WONDER IF THERE'S SOME KIND OF MEANING IN IT?
SAW IT ON THE MORNING NEWS
I'M A DETECTIVE !!
W-WAIT WHY ARE YOU HERE!!?
TADUM
AFTER THE VICTIM WAS STRANGLED, HE WAS DRAGGED OVER HERE, IT SEEMS?
THE VICTIM'S TIME OF DEATH SEEMS TO COINCIDE WITH WHEN THE SYSTEM WOULD BE TURNED ON.
UH, YEAH, I FIGURED WE COULD ASK THE KID WHAT HE THOUGHT ABOUT IT...
YASU... DID YOU LET THEM IN....?
TEE HEE
YOU'RE VERY SENSIBLE, YASU-KUN!
YES... IT'S A SIGN THEY WENT TO SOME SORT OF EFFORT...

THE BODY WAS LEFT BEHIND, AND THE NECKLACE WAS STOLEN. BUT THE SECURITY LASERS DIDN'T PICK UP ANYTHING STRANGE AT ALL.
THAT'S THE REAL QUESTION HERE... WHY DIDN'T IT PICK ANYTHING UP?
SUSPECTS AND THEIR ALIBIS DURING THE SYSTEM ACTIVATION.
I WAS SLEEPING IN THE NIGHT DUTY ROOM IN THE SECURITY AREA UNTIL MORNING...
ELITE SECURITY GUARD
HITE-MITSU KURAMAE
I WAS IN MY APARTMENTS THE ENTIRE TIME, THOUGH!
WHY AM I A SUSPECT TOO?
PRIVATE MUSEUM CURATOR
SUZUME SENSOKU
I WAS SORTING PAPERWORK IN THE OFFICE, AND I FELL ASLEEP IN THERE.
CURATOR'S SECRE-TARY
HARUOMI NEGISHI
MY CONVERSATION WITH THE CURATOR WENT QUITE LONG, SO HE LET ME STAY IN HIS GUEST ROOM OVERNIGHT.
APPRAI-SOR MIEKO KOTO-BUKI


IS THIS A PHOTO OF THE VICTIM'S BODY?
THERE'S A MIRROR IN HIS CHEST POCKET, ISN'T THERE? I WONDER IF THAT'S A CLUE.
WHY DID THE MURDERER KILL HIM IN ANOTHER PLACE AND THEN DRAG HIM HERE...
.....

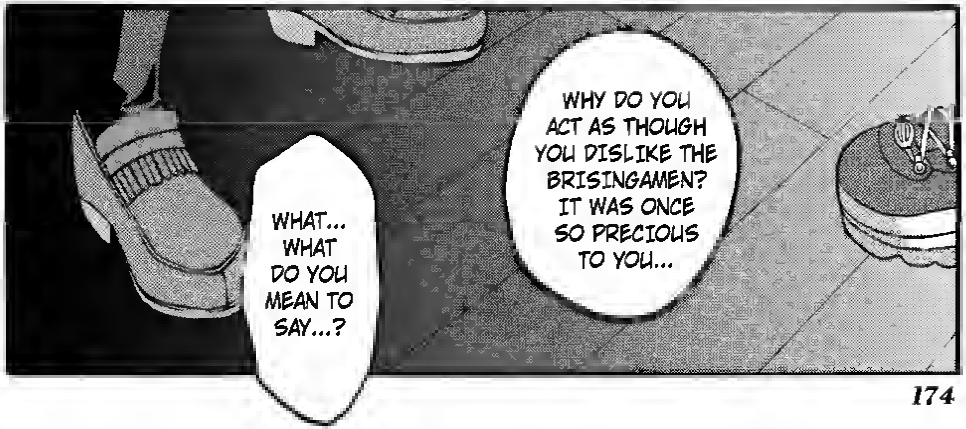

THEY'RE REFLECTED SO AS TO COVER THE ENTIRETY OF THE ROOM, RIGHT?
SO, THE LASERS RUN CONCURRENT IN THIS SHAPE AROUND THE ROOM.
CURATOR, EXACTLY HOW MANY INFRARED LASERS ARE GENERATED INTO THIS ROOM?
THERE ARE THREE OF THEM, AND THEY'RE EMITTED SUCH AS TO NOT ALLOW ANYONE OF AVERAGE HEIGHT TO GO OVER OR UNDER THEM.


IT'S SET TO GO OFF IF THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN.
NO, THEY ALL COME FROM ONE PILLAR, AND AS LONG AS THE BEAM ISN'T OBSTRUCTED, IT COMES RIGHT BACK TO THE SAME PILLAR.
HUH?
SO THE INFRARED LASERS ARE REFLECTED? THEY DON'T ACTUALLY SURROUND THE ROOM?
THEY'RE REFLECTED AROUND THE ROOM SOMETHING LIKE THIS, RIGHT, CURATOR?
S
??
AN EXQUISITE COST-CUTTING MEASURE!!
EXACTLY! THE INFRARED BEAMS FORM A SHAPE ONE CAN DRAW WITH A SINGLE STROKE!

ISN'T THE MIRROR IN THE POCKET OF THE DEAD MAN ALIGNED DIRECTLY WITH THE BOTTOM LASER...?
SECURITY ROOM
LARGE DIS-PLAY ROOM
FREE ZONE
OFFICES
CONSIDERING THAT, THIS IS THE WAY THAT THE INFRARED LASERS ROUTE WOULD CHANGE.
THE REASON THAT THE MURDERER BROUGHT THE BODY HERE WAS TO USE IT TO REFLECT THE INFRARED LASERS WITH THE MIRROR....
AFTER HIS FINAL PATROL WAS FINISHED AND THE SYSTEM WAS ACTIVATED, THEY COULD COME BACK ANY TIME TO STEAL THE NECKLACE.
THE ONLY PLACE THAT SOMEONE COULD ENTER OR EXIT THAT FREE ZONE IS FROM THE OFFICE...

IN OTHER WORDS, THE SECRETARY, NEGISHI, IS THE MURDERER.
AH, I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
WHO'S THERE... WHO'S CALLING ME....?
FREYA-SAMA.
I'M HAPPY THAT YOU LOOK SO WELL...

HAHA HA.... YOU TRUSTED ME?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU EVEN TALKING ABOUT...
WHY WOULD YOU DO THIS, NEGISHI-KUN!? I TRUSTED YOU!!


WHY DO YOU ACT AS THOUGH YOU DISLIKE THE BRISINGAMEN? IT WAS ONCE SO PRECIOUS TO YOU...
WHAT... WHAT DO YOU MEAN TO SAY...?

OH WELL. SORRY ABOUT THIS BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO PUT IT ON YOU.
N-NO!! LOKI-SAMA SAVE ME!!
OH HOH... WELL THEN, IT'S INTERESTING TO FINALLY SEE YOUR TRUE FACE... I SEE.
THE PRIDEFUL AND DISTANT GODDESS FREYA, FALLING IN LOVE WITH THE TRICKSTER, LOKI...
I'D HAVE NEVER SEEN THAT COMING.
BA-DUM
THE FEELINGS THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO SUPPRESS AS A GODDESS ARE NOW, ON EARTH, BEING EXPRESSED AS IF BY A DIFFERENT PERSON...

BADUM
YEAH, I DID IT! I KILLED THAT GUY!
AHH HA HA HA
YEAH, YOU CAN TELL US ALL ABOUT IT AT THE STATION.
WHAT IS WITH THIS GUY...?
HEY, LOKI. YOU DIDN'T CALL OUT ANY EVIL FROM THIS ONE, DID YOU?
IT'S NOT THE SAME. HE WAS JUST BEING CONTROLLED BY SOMEONE ELSE. IT WOULDN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE IF I TRIED.

I WONDER IF THE BRISINGAMEN HAS ANY CONNECTION TO IT....
OF IF FREYA HAS ANY CONNECT....
WAIT, WHERE'S REIYA?
REIYA!
SLAM!
WHAT WHAT IS IT!? LOKI WHAT'S GOING ON?
SOMETHING'S OFF HERE, NARUKAMI-KUN.
BANG!

WH-!!! REIYA HAS.... AWAK-ENED?
FREYA!!
HOW DARE YOU SPEAK TO ME SO IMPUDENTLY...
WSHH
LOKI.

SWSH
YII!
LOKI... I HATE YOU SO VERY, VERY MUCH THAT I CAN HARDLY STAND IT.
YOU ARE AN UTTER DISGRACE, I WISH YOU TO VANISH FROM MY SIGHT.

EVEN FREYA IS AFTER LOKI...!! WHAT IN THE WORLD DOES THIS MEAN...!?
WHEN I LOOK AT THAT NECKLACE...
I FEEL LIKE I'M BECOMING ANOTHER PERSON.
HERE, YOU TAKE IT OFF BY YOURSELF!!
DOOOOOMM!!
DON'T ORDER ME AROUND!
BAM
BANG
NARUKAMI-KUN! TRY TO GET THAT NECKLACE OFF OF FREYA!
BANG
BAMM
AUGH, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON!
WHOOSH

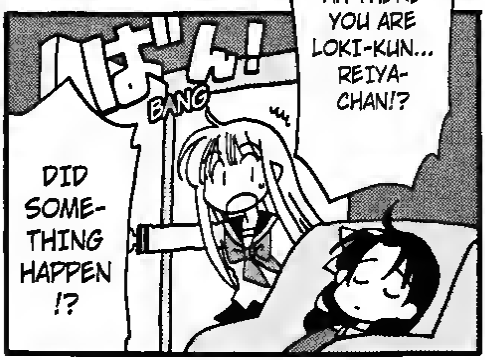
SAVE ME...
LOKI-SAMA...
TOSS
FWUMP
SHING

ヒュー!
FWOOSH
!?
YANK
!
ウー!!

WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING?

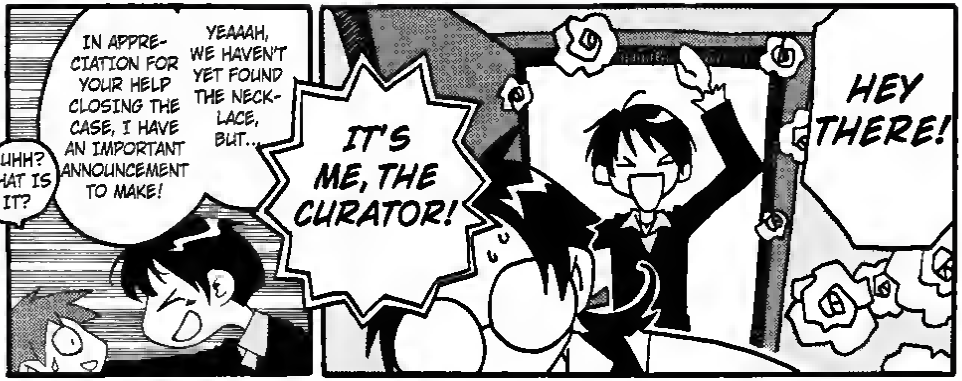
NOTHING.

NOTH....

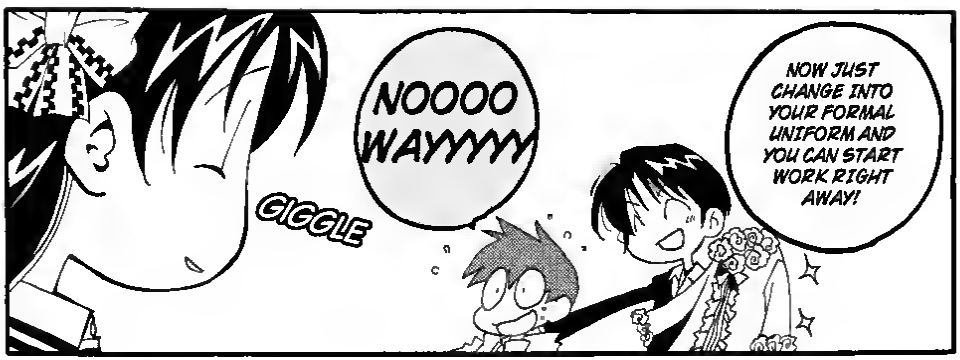

AH THERE YOU ARE LOKI-KUN... REIYA-CHAN!?
バン!
BANG
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN !?

...IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOU TWO?

I'M AFRAID TO GO TO SLEEP. I FEEL LIKE I WILL HAVE NIGHT-MARES...
...LOKI-SAMA... WHAT HAVE I DONE?
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY GET SOME MORE SLEEP, REIYA.
YOU'RE YOU, REIYA.
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.


HEY THERE!
IT'S ME, THE CURATOR!
YEAAAH, WE HAVEN'T YET FOUND THE NECKLACE, BUT..
IN APPRECIATION FOR YOUR HELP CLOSING THE CASE, I HAVE AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE!
HUHH? WHAT IS IT?

FROM HERE ON OUT, I HAVE SELECTED YOU TO BE MY NEW ELITE SECRETARY!


NOW JUST CHANGE INTO YOUR FORMAL UNIFORM AND YOU CAN START WORK RIGHT AWAY!
NOOOO WAYYYY
GIGGLE

FREYA.... AS LONG AS THE BRISINGAMEN STILL EXISTS, SOMEDAY YOU WILL BECOME YOURSELF AGAIN...
AND THE MORE YOU LOVE LOKI NOW, THE MORE YOUR AWAKENED FORM WILL GROW TO HATE HIM...
AHH, LOKI. I, HEIMDALL, WILL NOT LET YOU OFF SO EASILY AS TO KILL YOU.

TO BE CONTINUED……
SEE YOU NEXT ISSUE!!